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Twisha's husband taken into custody

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THREE-LANGUAGE RULE

Parents, students move SC against CBSE circular

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MASSIVE OUTFLOW

March saw net foreign investments decline

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BHOJSHALA DISPUTE

Saffron clashes with green, again

HC ruling has renewed debate over the Dhar monument's past, future

GROUND ZERO » PAGE 11

MIXED DAY

SRH finishes with a win, but RCB in Q1

SPORT » PAGE 18

NEARBY

RS polls: Political activity to pick up in Cong., BJP

BENGALUIRU
Political activity in the Congress and BJP is likely to intensify in the coming days with the notification of elections to four Rajya Sabha seats from Karnataka..

» PAGE 8

Stray dog feeding programme of BBMP shelved

BENGALURU
The erstwhile BBMP'S project of feeding stray dogs, which was announced in 2025, has been shelved following the formation of five new corporations under the GBA.

» PAGE 2

PROPERTYPLUS » PAGE 7

SC refers UAPA bail curbs question to larger Bench

The court says the reference is needed to ensure 'parity, consistency and institutional fidelity' in applying binding precedents; it also grants six months of interim bail to two Delhi riots accused

Aaratrika Bhaumik
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday granted six months of interim bail to two accused in the 2020 Delhi riots case while referring to a larger Bench the question of whether prolonged incarceration and delay in trial can override the stringent bail curbs under anti-terror laws such as the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (UAPA).

The court said the reference was necessary to ensure "parity, consistency and institutional fidelity" in the application of binding precedents by coordinate Benches. The reference was made by a Bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and P. B. Varale during the hearing of bail pleas filed by riots accused Abdul Khalid Saifi and Tasleem Ahmad, challenging a September 2, 2025, order of the Delhi High Court denying them bail.

> The matter must ordinarily be placed before the Chief Justice of India for the constitution of an appropriate Bench. A coordinate Bench cannot, by strong observations, effectively unsettle the ratio of an earlier coordinate Bench while continuing to sit in equal strength
>
> SUPREME COURT

"Where a coordinate Bench entertains reservations about the reasoning of an earlier coordinate Bench, particularly on the application of a binding three-judge Bench decision, the proper course is well settled. The matter must ordinarily be placed before the Chief Justice of India for the constitution of an appropriate Bench. A coordinate Bench cannot, by strong observations, effectively unsettle the ratio of an earlier coordinate Bench while continuing to sit in equal strength," the Bench observed.

The reference came in response to the Delhi Police's contention that a May 18 judgment delivered by a coordinate Bench – which had expressed "serious reservations" about the Justice Kumar-headed Bench's January ruling refusing bail to activists Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam in the Delhi riots "larger conspiracy" case – had proceeded on a "blanket generalisation" of Supreme Court precedents.

Additional Solicitor General S.V. Raju, appearing for the Delhi Police, told the Bench that the question of bail must turn on the facts and circumstances of each case.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

SC recalls 'harsh' remarks made over textbook row

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday recalled observations made in an order blacklisting three educators for preparing a Class 8 NCERT textbook with references to judicial corruption even as the government orally conveyed a determination not to associate with them anymore.

"The conclusive opinion attributing motive to your clients has been deleted. The observations that it was a deliberate misrepresentation to tarnish the judiciary have been removed. We have also set aside the direction that nobody should engage your clients. Now, it is left to the independent decision of the government," Justice Joymalya Bagchi, part of a three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, addressed the lawyers representing the three academics.

Supreme Court says direction against engaging the three academics has been set aside. FILE PHOTO

Author and scholar Michel Danino, educationist Suparna Divakar and legal researcher Alok Prasanna Kumar had approached the top court for deletion of portions in a March 11 order which accused them of distortion to "project a negative image of Indian judiciary before students".

Justice Bagchi said: "The problem was only with the content and not the creators."

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

SC asks panel to review cartoons in textbooks

NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court on Friday asked a former apex court judge-led committee to review cartoons published in NCERT textbooks after Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta pointed out that "textbook is not a space where you use cartoons". Mr. Mehta raised an objection about cartoons he happened to come across in "some" NCERT textbooks. » PAGE 12

Karnataka notifies final draft of minimum wages with 60% hike

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

In a relief to over one crore workers across 81 scheduled employments in Karnataka reeling under pressure of rising prices of essential commodities, the Karnataka government on Friday notified the final draft of minimum wages – ranging from ₹19,300 for an unskilled worker in Zone 3 to ₹31,100 for the highly skilled worker in Zone 1. The average increase of minimum wages is about 60% from the current wages.

The final notification on Friday comes over a year after the draft of the revised minimum wages for 81 scheduled employment in the State was notified on April 11, 2025. The variable dearness allowance for two years amounting to ₹1,030 has been incorporated into the minimum wages.

Confirming the notification, Labour Minister Santosh Lad told *The Hindu* that the new minimum wages would help a large workforce in the State.

"This is the workforce that will have very little left after paying for ESI and PF in the current minimum wage structure. They are also out of BPL limits," he said. Karnataka is the third State to notify revised minimum wages in the country in recent months after Uttar Pradesh and Haryana. While violence had broken out in Uttar Pradesh, widespread protests had been reported in Haryana over wages.

The current revision is based on the calculation of expenditure of households as per the guidelines fixed by the Supreme Court in the Reptakos Brett case of 1991. The State has been classified into three zones for calculation of minimum wages with Greater Bengaluru region coming under Zone 1. While Zone 2 is all other district centres, and rest of the regions have been classified under Zone 3.

The revision comes a decade after the last revision effected in 2016-2017. While trade unions had been pushing the government to notify the minimum wages, the industry and businesses were against the increase, citing the fear of flight of capital from the State and inability of industries, especially the MSME sector, to pay the revised wages.

Maharashtra is India's growth engine: Shinde

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Maharashtra is the country's growth engine, and the Mumbai Metropolitan Region is on track to be a $1.5-trillion economy, Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said, speaking at *The Hindu* Maharashtra Infrastructure Conclave on Friday.

He said the government was committed to deliver a slum-free metropolis. The conclave had a power-packed line-up, including BMC Commissioner Ashwini Bhide, Maharashtra Ministers Ashish Shelar and Nitesh Rane, Australia's Consul General Paul Murphy, Finland's CG Erik Hallstrom, Mazagon Dock CMD Capt. Jagmohan (retd), and top bureaucrats.

REPORTS ON » PAGE 15

Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde in conversation with Vinaya Deshpande, Chief of Bureau, *The Hindu,* during the Maharashtra Infrastructure Conclave, 2026 in Mumbai on Friday. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Birth rate, infant deaths fall in India, finds survey

Ramya Kannan
CHENNAI

The bulletin from the recent Sample Registration Survey (SRS) 2024 provides the sharpest picture yet of India in the throes of demographic transition.

As per the latest estimate, while the country's birth rate has fallen between 2014 and 2024 and the death rate is down marginally, good gains have been reported with the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), amid substantial progress made over the last decade. However, vast gaps persist between rural and urban areas and progress across the country is uneven, making the call for equitable growth and appropriate deployment of resources particularly sound.

Changing trends

India's birth rate, death rate and infant mortality rate have fallen over the last decade, though vast rural-urban gaps and uneven progress persist

Indicator	2014	2024	Difference
Birth rate	21	18.3*	Down by 2.7 points
Death rate	6.7	6.4**	Down by 0.3 points
Infant mortality rate	39	24#	Down by 15 points

INDIA AT A GLANCE
*Births per population of **1,000**
Deaths per population of **1,000
Infant deaths per **1,000 live births**
Source: SRS Bulletin 2024

The country's birth rate – live births per 1,000 population – fell from 21 in 2014 to 18.3 in 2024, while the death rate (deaths per 1,000 people) is down from 6.7 to 6.4. The IMR, recorded as the number of deaths per thousand live births, has dropped from 39 to 24. While the overall performance is creditable, the disappointment is in the relatively worse performance in rural areas. In fact, they drag the country's averages down substantially.

For instance, while the rural birth rate fell from 22.7 to 20.2 in the given decade, the simultaneous decadal performance in the urban areas was better – the birth rate fell from 17.4 to 14.7. In the rural areas, the death rate fell from 7.3 to 6.8 between 2014 and 2024, and in the urban segment, it was at 5.5 in 2014 and went up marginally to 5.6 -- still a better performance than in rural areas.

Urban gains

The gains of urban areas in this bulletin are probably the most appreciable result in the field of IMR, dropping from 26 to 17 by nine points. While it has dropped 16 points from 43 to 27 in the rural areas during the same period, it is still further away from the national target to reduce the IMR to single digits.

The differences are also stark, with some States way ahead of the rest. Kerala and Tamil Nadu lead the way with better statistics in all sectors. Kerala has the lowest natural growth rate (NGR) of 3.9, the rate at which a population increases or decreases due to births and deaths, excluding migration, expressed as a percentage. It is also a crucial indicator of demographic transition.

Kerala also has a single-digit IMR (8), the lowest in the country.

Tamil Nadu brings up the second position among larger States, with an NGR of 4.8 and an IMR of 11. Among the smaller States, Goa (4.2 NGR and 11 IMR) and among Union Territories, Andaman and Nicobar Islands (4.1 NGR and 9 IMR) show the way.

RELATED REPORT ON » PAGE 8

Malabar Tree Toad to be declared State amphibian

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Process is under way to officially declare the Apis cerana and Malabar Tree Toad as the State insect and State amphibian, respectively, said Forest and Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre on Friday.

Speaking at the International Day for Biological Diversity, 2026, he said that many States had their own State bird, animal and tree.

The sandalwood is Karnataka's State tree, elephant the State animal, the Indian Roller State bird, and Southern Birdwing the State butterfly.

Smart border project set to make frontiers 'impregnable': Shah

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said the Government of India has decided to not only stop infiltration but expel each infiltrator, ensuring that there are no unnatural demographic changes in the country.

Mr. Shah said that a Smart Border concept will be unveiled soon, which will make the entire Pakistan and Bangladesh borders "impregnable". The project, equipped with drones, radars, cameras, and other technical resources, will plug the gaps in border security. He said that a demography mission will be announced soon, which will identify the infiltration routes and provide the information to the Border Security Force (BSF).

Need for coordination

He said the BSF which is deployed along Pakistan and Bangladesh borders, should be in regular contact with local revenue officials, police and district administration to identify illegal migrants and look at border security as "territorial responsibility".

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

GETTY IMAGES

Whither Alexander Zverev, the forlorn scion of the lost generation?

Sandwiched between two eras of dominance, the 6'6" German is in a peculiar position. He is ranked a creditable third behind Jannik Sinner and Carlos Alcaraz, although a distant one at that. And while he has made two of his three Major finals over the last two years with an upgraded game, the dream of a first Grand Slam title still seems distant ahead of Roland-Garros

N. Sudarshan

Human beings are not just shaped by their actions, but they are also creatures of circumstance. This is especially true in the sporting world, where athletes' performance not only depends on their quality but also on who the rivals are, their prevailing standards of excellence and the setting in which the competition is being held.

It is like playing blackjack at a casino, a game of skill and strategy no doubt but one where luck is a big determinant of the two cards the dealer deals to each player at the beginning.

Constantly thwarted

In the decade or so that he has been playing tennis at the elite level, Alexander Zverev has been experiencing this first hand. The German has been in the top-10 for a good part of these 10 years, won 24 ATP Tour titles including seven Masters 1000s and two year-ending Finals, and clinched the singles gold medal at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

However, he is yet to taste success at the Grand Slams, having lost thrice in the finals. And he has been thwarted by not one or two but three generations of players.

When he first broke through, the stranglehold established by Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic was still intact. In 2020, in his maiden Major final at the US Open, he was beaten by his peer Dominic Thiem despite leading two sets to love and serving for the trophy in the fifth.

Of late, he has been ambushed by the irresistible duo of Carlos Alcaraz and Jannik Sinner, who have swept the last nine Slams and beaten Zverev in 13 of their last 14 meetings combined.

The latest of these came at the Madrid Masters earlier this month, Sinner winning 6-1, 6-2 in just an hour and 13 minutes. Three weeks shy of Roland-Garros, the reverse would have been chastening, for it was his ninth straight defeat to the Italian World No. 1.

> I've worked on my first shots after the serve, my first forehand after the serve... if those things work for me, then I think success will come

Zverev, 29, followed it up by combusting spectacularly at the Rome Masters, losing early to the unheralded Luciano Darderi, including 6-0 in the final set after fluffing four match-points in the second stanza. But there is little doubt as to which of the two defeats would have left a lasting scar.

Zverev's current state is a paradox. He has been secure in the ATP top-four starting French Open 2024, made two of his three Major finals in this period and exhibited a much-improved level of play that is deserving of the sport's most important prizes.

A big-serving counter-puncher with an imposing on-court presence, Zverev, from a height of 6'6", possesses one of the best serves on the circuit. His backhand is ruthless, he is solid on the return and moves extremely well despite his towering build.

At the Australian Open, he hit with new-found depth and spin, and also added significant amounts of aggression. "I've worked on my first shots after the serve, my first forehand after the serve... if those things work for me, then I think success will come," he had said.

In the semifinal in Melbourne, he came up with a first-rate performance, battling Alcaraz for five hours and 27 minutes before losing the riveting fixture narrowly. If he had served out the contest at 5-4 in the fifth, an even-odds final against a 38-year-old Djokovic would have been his reward.

Yet, he is currently in a peculiar position, placed a creditable third behind Sinner and Alcaraz, though a distant one at that. In the four Masters 1000 tournaments after the Australian Open, Zverev finished a semifinalist or better, but lost in all four to Sinner. The difference in points between him and Alcaraz in second spot is more than double his own tally of 5,705.

> I do have to believe that I'm capable of beating him [Sinner]. I do have to believe it, otherwise we can just give him the trophy without playing the tournament

Monopoly? Duopoly?

Interestingly, Zverev believes that men's tennis is a monopoly and not a duopoly. "There's a big gap between Sinner and everybody else," he opined after his Madrid surrender. "There's a big gap between Alcaraz, myself, maybe Novak, and everybody else," he added.

The attempt to bracket himself with Alcaraz rests on the evidence of the close encounter Down Under and the fact that they had split the six previous matches equally. In the 2024 French Open final, Zverev even led the Spaniard two sets to one before falling apart.

With Alcaraz pulling out of Paris and Wimbledon with a wrist injury, Zverev will have to wait longer to prove his proximity to the seven-time Major champion. But if he recovers sufficiently from his own back injury that put him out of Hamburg this week, he will have his clearest shot at Sinner on the Grand Slam stage.

"I do have to believe that I'm capable of beating him [Sinner]," Zverev, who is seeded second at the second Major of the year, said after Rome. "I do have to believe it, otherwise we can just give him the trophy without playing the tournament."

Though Sinner is on a mesmerising 29-match winning streak, Zverev can draw confidence from his own affinity for clay. Roland-Garros has been the gangly German's most rewarding Slam – three quarterfinals, three semifinals and a final in his last eight visits.

Four of his seven Masters crowns have come on the dirt, and he boasts of a better win-loss percentage on the surface (73%, 182-66) than both his overall career number (70%, 548-232) 70%) and figure on hard courts (69%, 321-143).

However, his past record at capitalising on the absence of one of his two great rivals is a giant red flag. In February 2025, when Sinner accepted a three-month doping ban, Zverev had a golden chance to be Alcaraz's biggest challenger.

When the expulsion kicked in, Sinner's lead over Zverev was 3,695 points. Despite missing four Masters 1000s and a couple of ATP 500s, the Italian returned to action at Rome still ahead by 1,645 points.

Zverev played eight tournaments in the time Sinner was away, but won more than two matches at just one event – Munich 500, where he hoisted the trophy.

Presently, though his game is better rounded than earlier, he still has the propensity to be passive at crucial junctures. And despite his vast wingspan, his skills at the net and his transitions to the forecourt leave much to be desired.

There are also seeming temperamental flaws. Last October, he extrapolated Federer's observation that surfaces were being slowed down and said, "they [authorities] want Jannik and Carlos to do well every tournament, and that's what they prefer".

Off-court drama

After the recent exit from Rome, he called the courts – where he has two titles and a runner-up finish – the worst he had ever played on. Two days after that, he went after *Tennis Channel*, accusing it of "wasting his time" and loving to "hate on him" after the American network, allegedly, dropped promotional videos involving him.

For someone who is at the peak of his career, these are distractions he could do without. It will be in his – and men's tennis' – best interests if he can marry his upgraded style with a better mental disposition, and let the headlines write themselves from within the four corners of the court.

STACKING UP

ATP Men's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Jannik Sinner	24	14,700	20
2	Carlos Alcaraz	23	11,960	18
3	Alexander Zverev	29	5,705	22
4	Novak Djokovic	38	4,710	17
5	Felix Auger-Aliassime	25	4,060	24
6	Ben Shelton	23	4,030	22
7	Daniil Medvedev	30	3,760	24
8	Taylor Fritz	28	3,720	23
9	Alex de Minaur	27	3,665	22
10	Alexander Bublik	28	3,230	25
11	Lorenzo Musetti	24	3,115	23
12	Flavio Cobolli	24	2,790	27
13	Andrey Rublev	28	2,780	24
14	Jiri Lehecka	24	2,715	22
15	Karen Khachanov	29	2,320	24

Top Indians ▶

Sumit Nagal
Rank 275 ▲ 1 spot

Manas Dhamne
Rank 391 ▼ 7 spots

WTA Women's Top 15

#	Player	Age	Points	Events
1	Aryna Sabalenka	28	9,960	19
2	Elena Rybakina	26	8,705	23
3	Iga Swiatek	24	7,273	19
4	Coco Gauff	22	6,749	19
5	Jessica Pegula	32	6,286	21
6	Amanda Anisimova	24	5,958	19
7	Elina Svitolina	31	4,315	15
8	Mirra Andreeva	19	4,181	21
9	Victoria Mboko	19	3,395	20
10	Karolina Muchova	29	3,318	19
11	Belinda Bencic	29	3,145	19
12	Linda Noskova	21	3,054	23
13	Jasmine Paolini	30	2,787	20
14	Ekaterina Alexandrova	31	2,679	26
15	Marta Kostyuk	23	2,387	19

Top Indians ▶

Sahaja Yamalapalli
Rank 358 ▲▼ No change

Vaishnavi Adkar
Rank 375 ▲ 22 spots

English Premier League Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Arsenal	37	25	7	5	69	26	43	82
2	Man. City	37	23	9	5	76	33	43	78
3	Man. United	37	19	11	7	66	50	16	68
4	Aston Villa	37	18	8	11	54	48	6	62
5	Liverpool	37	17	8	12	62	52	10	59
6	Bournemouth	37	13	17	7	57	53	4	56
7	Brighton	37	14	11	12	52	43	9	53
8	Chelsea	37	14	10	13	57	50	7	52
9	Brentford	37	14	10	13	54	51	3	52
10	Sunderland	37	13	12	12	40	47	-7	51
11	Newcastle	37	14	7	16	53	53	0	49
12	Everton	37	13	10	14	47	49	-2	49
13	Fulham	37	14	7	16	45	51	-6	49
14	Leeds United	37	11	14	12	49	53	-4	47
15	Crystal Palace	37	11	12	14	40	49	-9	45
16	N. Forest	37	11	10	16	47	50	-3	43
17	Tottenham	37	9	11	17	47	57	-10	38
18	West Ham	37	9	9	19	43	65	-22	36
19	Burnley	37	4	9	24	37	74	-37	21
20	Wolves	37	3	10	24	26	67	-41	19

Spanish LaLiga Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Barcelona	37	31	1	5	94	33	61	94
2	Real Madrid	37	26	5	6	73	33	40	83
3	Villarreal	37	21	6	10	67	45	22	69
4	Atletico Madrid	37	21	6	10	61	39	22	69
5	Real Betis	37	14	15	8	57	47	10	57
6	Celta Vigo	37	13	12	12	52	48	4	51
7	Getafe	37	14	6	17	31	38	-7	48
8	Rayo Vallecano	37	11	14	12	39	43	-4	47
9	Valencia	37	12	10	15	43	54	-11	46
10	Real Sociedad	37	11	12	14	58	60	-2	45
11	Espanyol	37	12	9	16	42	54	-12	45
12	Athletic Club	37	13	6	18	41	54	-13	45
13	Sevilla	37	12	7	18	46	59	-13	43
14	Alaves	37	11	10	16	43	54	-11	43
15	Levante	37	11	9	17	46	59	-13	42
16	Osasuna	37	11	9	17	44	49	-5	42
17	Elche	37	10	12	15	48	56	-8	42
18	Girona	37	9	13	15	38	54	-16	40
19	Real Mallorca	37	10	9	18	44	57	-13	39
20	Real Oviedo	37	6	11	20	26	57	-31	29

Italian Serie A Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Inter Milan	37	27	5	5	86	32	54	86
2	Napoli	37	22	7	8	57	36	21	73
3	AC Milan	37	20	10	7	52	33	19	70
4	Roma	37	22	4	11	57	31	26	70
5	Como	37	19	11	7	61	28	33	68
6	Juventus	37	19	11	7	59	32	27	68
7	Atalanta	37	15	13	9	50	35	15	58
8	Bologna	37	16	7	14	46	43	3	55
9	Lazio	37	13	12	12	39	39	0	51
10	Udinese	37	14	8	15	45	47	-2	50
11	Sassuolo	37	14	7	16	46	49	-3	49
12	Torino	37	12	8	17	42	61	-19	44
13	Parma	37	10	12	15	27	46	-19	42
14	Genoa	37	10	11	16	41	50	-9	41
15	Fiorentina	37	9	14	14	40	49	-9	41
16	Cagliari	37	10	10	17	38	52	-14	40
17	Lecce	37	9	8	20	27	50	-23	35
18	Cremonese	37	8	10	19	31	53	-22	34
19	Verona	37	3	12	22	25	59	-34	21
20	Pisa	37	2	12	23	25	69	-44	18

German Bundesliga Standings

#	Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
1	Bayern	34	28	5	1	122	36	86	89
2	Dortmund	34	22	7	5	70	34	36	73
3	RB Leipzig	34	20	5	9	66	47	19	65
4	Stuttgart	34	18	8	8	71	49	22	62
5	Hoffenheim	34	18	7	9	65	52	13	61
6	Leverkusen	34	17	8	9	68	47	21	59
7	SC Freiburg	34	13	8	13	51	57	-6	47
8	Eintracht	34	11	11	12	61	65	-4	44
9	FC Augsburg	34	12	7	15	45	61	-16	43
10	Mainz	34	10	10	14	44	53	-9	40
11	Union Berlin	34	10	9	15	44	58	-14	39
12	M'gladbach	34	9	11	14	42	53	-11	38
13	Hamburg	34	9	11	14	40	54	-14	38
14	Cologne	34	7	11	16	49	63	-14	32
15	Werder	34	8	8	18	37	60	-23	32
16	Wolfsburg	34	7	8	19	45	69	-24	29
17	Heidenheim	34	6	8	20	41	72	-31	26
18	St Pauli	34	6	8	20	29	60	-31	26

Test Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Joe Root	880	932
2	Harry Brook	857	898
3	Travis Head	853	884
4	Steve Smith	831	947
5	Kane Williamson	822	919
6	Kamindu Mendis	781	784
7	Temba Bavuma	775	806
8	Yashasvi Jaiswal	750	858
9	Shubman Gill	730	807
10	Dinesh Chandimal	717	755

Test Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Jasprit Bumrah	879	908
2	Mitchell Starc	838	852
3	Matt Henry	836	853
4	Pat Cummins	832	914
5	Noman Ali	825	853
5	Marco Jansen	825	825
7	Scott Boland	820	820
8	Kagiso Rabada	807	902
9	Josh Hazlewood	775	864
10	Nathan Lyon	753	812

ODI Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Daryl Mitchell	815	840
2	Virat Kohli	791	908
3	Ibrahim Zadran	756	756
4	Rohit Sharma	748	879
5	Shubman Gill	716	841
6	Babar Azam	684	894
7	Shai Hope	679	782
7	Harry Tector	679	730
9	K.L. Rahul	664	676
9	Salman Agha	664	664

ODI Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Rashid Khan	705	775
2	Jofra Archer	649	682
3	Keshav Maharaj	645	737
4	Adil Rashid	629	671
5	Josh Hazlewood	626	725
6	Maheesh Theekshana	624	680
6	Kuldeep Yadav	624	757
8	Mehidy Hasan	621	722
9	Mitchell Santner	599	656
9	Adam Zampa	599	696

T20I Batting

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Abhishek Sharma	875	931
2	Ishan Kishan	871	871
3	Sahibzada Farhan	848	848
4	Phil Salt	792	881
5	Pathum Nissanka	766	796
6	Tilak Varma	742	845
7	Suryakumar Yadav	722	912
8	Jos Buttler	716	794
9	Dewald Brevis	702	738
10	Brian Bennett	701	708

T20I Bowling

#	Player	Rating	Career best
1	Rashid Khan	753	828
2	Varun Chakaravarthy	740	818
3	Abrar Ahmed	736	757
4	Adil Rashid	721	747
5	Jasprit Bumrah	702	783
6	Adam Zampa	682	746
7	Corbin Bosch	669	745
8	Matthew Forde	667	679
9	Mujeeb Ur Rahman	663	757
10	Nathan Ellis	661	678

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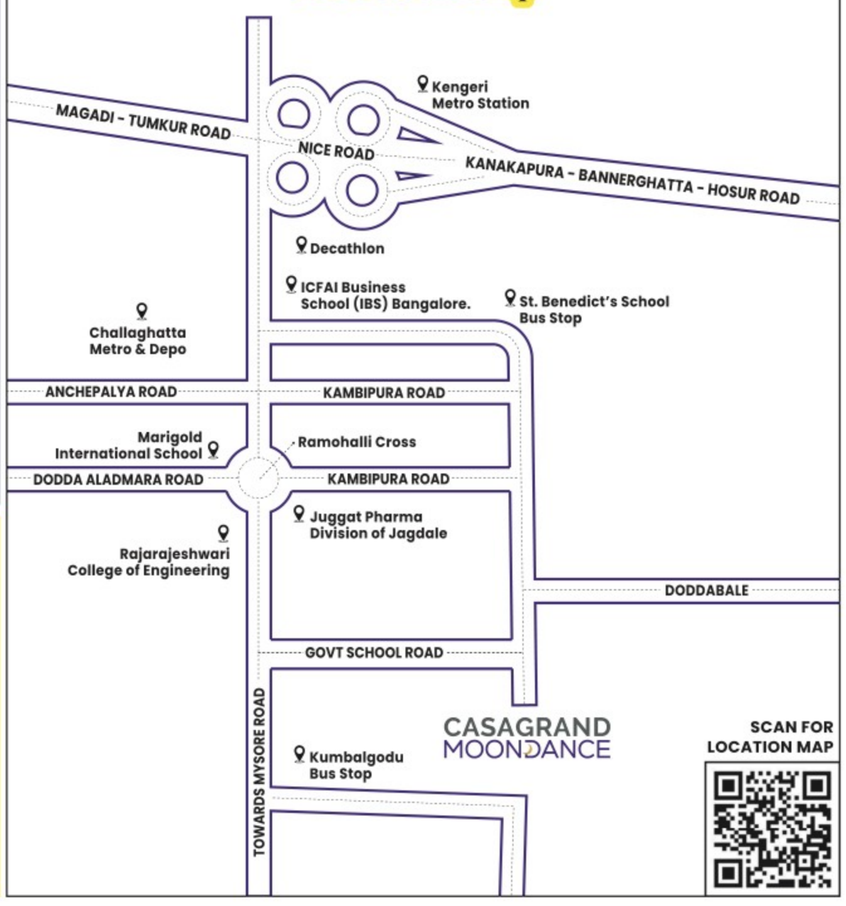

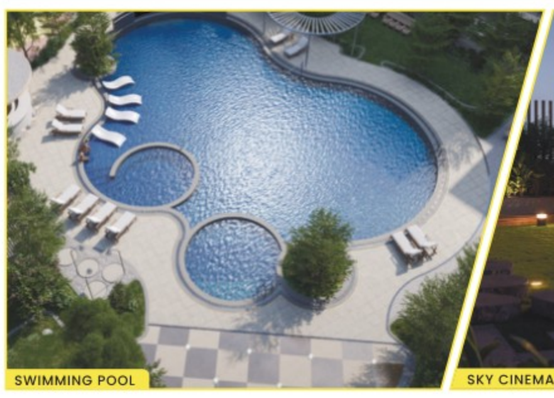
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Major champion Aaron Rai: the 'all-world' English gentleman with Indian roots

GETTY IMAGES

The 31-year-old's triumph at the PGA Championship was one of golf's great underdog stories. How did he step up on one of the sport's biggest stages? Why does he wear two gloves and use protective covers for his irons? And why does no opponent have a bad word to say about him?

Associated Press
Agence France-Presse

Aaron Rai's first love was Formula One; he dreamed of being a driver. His father, a tennis player who couldn't fulfil his dream of turning professional, introduced young Aaron to a racquet.

But the youngster's tennis stroke looked more like a golf swing, so dad bought him plastic clubs. Formula One and tennis' loss was golf's gain, for the boy immediately took to the sport.

Last man standing

And last weekend, Rai scripted one of the great underdog stories at Aronimink Golf Club – down the road from Philadelphia, which produced one of Hollywood's ultimate underdog stories: Rocky. The 31-year-old entered the PGA Championship a little-known long shot, but emerged from a packed leaderboard as the last man standing.

Having never finished better than 19th in 12 prior Major starts, Rai, with one PGA Tour title and three on the European tour, closed out the PGA Championship with nerves of steel.

He was among 22 players separated by four shots going into the final round, a logjam the likes of which the PGA Championship had never seen. He was just another name on the leaderboard midway through the final round, three shots behind and coming off two bogeys in three holes.

What followed was the stuff of Major champions – seven consecutive one-putt greens, including a 40-foot eagle on the par-5 ninth that turned his fortunes around.

Rai took the lead for good on the 13th, pouring it on with a 70-foot birdie putt across the 17th green. He was 6 under over the last 10 holes – cold-blooded birdies where others were struggling on the course's wildly contoured greens and tough pins. The last time anyone did better to win a Major was the great Jack Nicklaus in the 1986 Masters.

Breaking through at a Major is hard enough. Having to beat the likes of Rory McIlroy, Jon Rahm, Xander Schauffele, Cameron Smith, Justin Rose and Justin Thomas to do so is immeasurably harder. It requires top-drawer skill and a refusal to give up. And where Rahm couldn't make enough putts for birdie and McIlroy couldn't handle the par-5s, Rai found his best golf.

While there are more explosive golfers, Rai is considered one of the tour's more reliable ball-strikers. His precision, positioning and disciplined iron play work well on challenging courses – Aronimink is one of those. And his ability to stay cool under pressure helps in big moments.

Rai's attitude and temperament can be traced back to his early days. Growing up in Central England, the son of a father of Indian ancestry and a mother with Kenyan heritage, Rai learnt that hard work and humility were non-negotiable. "A lot has come from upbringing," he said.

"My dad instilled the importance of work and dedication. My mom worked extremely hard away from golf. She worked a couple of jobs at one time and did a lot of work around the house.

"There was a lot of consistent messaging of hard work. Golf is an extremely humbling game. There's so much hard work and discipline that goes into acquiring the skills to become better."

> I'm very proud to be from England. I'm very proud of India and Kenya as well. I don't know what all that represents. All I can say is I'm very proud to be a mix of all of them

Where he came from

Rai wears two gloves, a rarity in the sport, because that's what he did as a kid to fight off the cold English winter. Another reminder of his roots are the protective covers for his irons, not common among pros. He once said his father made many sacrifices to procure the nicest golf clubs and then would clean the grooves with baby oil after his son was done playing. Rai has left the iron covers on since then "to remember where I came from and to respect what I have."

One of the coaches at the course where Rai practised as a child told his father to "put Aaron in different situations and let him figure it out" – a guiding philosophy that has paid rich dividends.

"I didn't really mix with a lot of other junior golfers, which didn't give me a perspective of what was normal," Rai said. "So, I think my dad kind of sheltered me to be able to develop in a way that made sense for me, in a way that I guess was a little bit unique."

Rai's multicultural family is a source of strength and pride. "I'm very proud to be from England. That's where I grew up," he said. "I'm very proud of India and Kenya as well. Both sets of grandparents from my mom and dad's side were from India. I don't know what all that represents. All I can say is I'm very proud to be a mix of all of them." Another source of support for Rai is wife Gaurika Bishnoi, a top pro golfer from India with eight titles. "I wouldn't be here without her, both as a companion, as a friend, as someone I'm sharing my life with, but also as a real support system for my game," he said. "Her mindset, her advice, whether it's technique or the way I'm holding myself, is absolutely invaluable."

And when it comes to golf bragging rights, Rai admitted, "We practise quite a lot together. Honestly she beats me more times than I beat her."

When Gaurika first met Rai, she was struck by his authenticity. "He said, 'Sometimes I feel that things around me are going to change too much if I do something too crazy,'" Gaurika told *Golf Channel*. Ahead of the final day at the PGA Championship, she had to reassure Rai that nothing would change if he won "because I'm not someone who would change myself". "We're going to lead our lives the same way, and that's a choice we're going to consciously make," she told him.

What will change are the opportunities. Rai is now a Major winner, which gives him a life exemption into the PGA and five-year exemptions into the other three Majors, and secures his status on the PGA Tour for five years. He also vaulted 29 spots to a career-high No. 15.

Universally loved

Such success often breeds envy in rivals, but it's a measure of how well regarded he is on tour that even his opponents are delighted for him. "You won't find one person on property who's not happy for him," McIlroy said. Schauffele called him an "all-world gentleman, no doubt".

But it's what Schauffele said about Rai's work ethic that perhaps best captures the Englishman's defining quality. He referred to a late summer night in Scotland when he and his caddie went out for a putting contest. There was Rai at 9 p.m., and when he finished, he was off to the gym.

"Rarely do you feel like people work way harder than you," said Schauffele, who has won two Major titles and an Olympic gold medal. "That's what it's about to be a Major champion. You put the work in when nobody's looking. Super pumped for Aaron."

> I wouldn't be here without my wife. Her mindset, her advice is absolutely invaluable. We practise quite a lot together. Honestly she beats me more times than I beat her

GAME THEORY

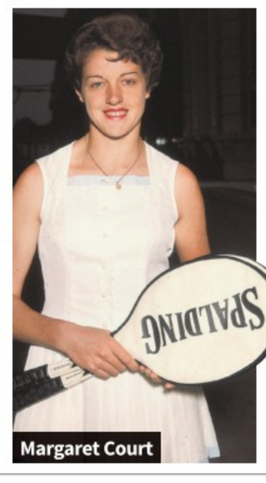
Queens of the clay Major

With Roland-Garros set to begin on Sunday, we take a look at the most prolific female winners at the tournament in its various avatars. From 1897 to 1924, the French Championships were open only to French nationals and French tennis club members. It became an international event in 1925 and moved to Stade Roland Garros in 1928. In 1968, it became the first Grand Slam to open its doors to non-amateur players, as the Open Era took shape.

Chris Evert

Suzanne Lenglen

Steffi Graf



Margaret Court

MOST FRENCH SINGLES TITLES (WOMEN)

Player	Titles	Editions
Chris Evert	7	1974, 1975, 1979, 1980, 1983, 1985, 1986
Suzanne Lenglen	6	1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1925, 1926
Steffi Graf	6	1987, 1988, 1993, 1995, 1996, 1999
Adine Masson	5	1897, 1898, 1899, 1902, 1903
Margaret Court	5	1962, 1964, 1969, 1970, 1973
Kate Gillou	4	1904, 1905, 1906, 1908
Jeanne Matthey	4	1909, 1910, 1911, 1912
Helen Wills	4	1928, 1929, 1930, 1932
Justine Henin	4	2003, 2005, 2006, 2007
Iga Swiatek	4	2020, 2022, 2023, 2024
Hilde Krahwinkel Sperling	3	1935, 1936, 1937
Arantxa Sanchez Vicario	3	1989, 1994, 1998
Monica Seles	3	1990, 1991, 1992
Serena Williams	3	2002, 2013, 2015
Marguerite Broquedis	2	1913, 1914
Margaret Scriven Vivian	2	1933, 1934
Simonne Mathieu	2	1938, 1939
Margaret Osborne duPont	2	1946, 1949
Doris Hart	2	1950, 1952
Maureen Connolly	2	1953, 1954
Ann Haydon Jones	2	1961, 1966
Lesley Turner Bowrey	2	1963, 1965
Martina Navratilova	2	1982, 1984
Maria Sharapova	2	2012, 2014

SOURCE: ROLAND-GARROS

PICTURE THIS

GETTY IMAGES

Hoary fixture

Just another day in the County Championship (Division 2), with Lancashire and Worcestershire locking horns at postcard-perfect Trafalgar Road in Southport.

County cricket has been derided over the years by some as a futile exercise, played out in front of three men and a dog. With the burgeoning of domestic white-ball competitions — The Hundred eats into prime county season — the Championship's doom has been foretold.

It still serves a vital purpose, however. Its value to the English game is fundamental, even if some top England cricketers are too busy with the IPL to play a meaningful role in it.

County cricket remains a finishing school for young players, especially those with Test ambitions, and a sanctuary for red-ball specialists to work on their games away from the pressure of international cricket.

It also offers players from other countries considerable benefits. Zaheer Khan and Ishant Sharma are two Indians who gained from county stints in the recent past. Indians once featured prominently on the county circuit, but their presence has reduced.

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Sri SIDDARAMAIAH
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

Housing Department
Karnataka Housing Board
Building Communities

KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD

Bengaluru Urban District, Anekal Taluk
KHB Surya Sports Village, Suryanagar 4th Stage

Foundation Stone Laying

Ceremony for the Construction of the International Cricket Stadium

Sri D.K. SHIVAKUMAR
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

Launch of the Hon'ble Chief Minister's "NAMMA MANE" Housing Scheme

Foundation Stone Laying for the "SURYA SHINE" and "SURYA DIVINE" Residential Township Projects

Symbolic Distribution of Site Allotment Letters to Landowners who contributed land for the Housing Project

Distribution of Site Allotment Letters to Public Applicants Presided by the Hon'ble Chief Minister

Date Saturday 23rd May 2026
Time 11.00 am
Venue: Indlawadi Village, KHB Surya Sports Village, Suryanagar 4th Stage, Bengaluru

Inauguration of The Programme
Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

In The August Presence of
Sri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Minister for Water Resources and Bengaluru Development
Government of Karnataka

On the occasion of extending a formal invitation to Hon'ble Chief Minister **Sri Siddaramaiah** to the programme, **Sri B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan,** Hon'ble Minister for Housing, Wakf and Minorities Welfare, along with **Sri K.M. Shivalingegowda,** Chairman, Karnataka Housing Board, and **Sri B. Shivanna,** MLA-Anekal Assembly Constituency jointly extending Invitation to Hon'ble Chief Minister

Distribution of Site Allotment Letters to Public Applicants
Sri B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan
Hon'ble Minister for Housing, Wakf and Minorities Welfare
Government of Karnataka

Distribution of Allotment Letters to Landowners
Sri K.M. Shivalingegowda
Hon'ble Chairman
Karnataka Housing Board

Presided Over By
Sri B. Shivanna
Hon'ble MLA
Anekal Assembly Constituency

Guest of Honour
Dr. C.N. Manjunath
Hon'ble Member of Parliament
Bengaluru Rural
Lok Sabha Constituency

Sri M. Krishnappa
Hon'ble MLA
Bengaluru South
Assembly Constituency

Honoured Presence
Sri D.K. Suresh
Hon'ble Chairman
Bengaluru Milk Union

All Hon'ble Ministers, Members of Parliament, Members of the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council, Chairpersons, Vice-Chairpersons and Members of Various Boards and Corporations of Karnataka are cordially invited to grace the occasion

All Are Cordially Welcome

Dr. Shalini Rajneesh, I.A.S.
Chief Secretary to Government, Karnataka Government

Sri K.P. Mohan Raj, I.A.S.
Secretary to Government, Housing Department

Sri K.A. Dayanand, I.A.S.
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Upalokayukta takes *suo motu* cognisance, seeks report on Dubare tragedy

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Upalokayukta Phaneendra, in his order dated May 21, has sought detailed comments and reports regarding visitor safety measures following the accident and summoned two Forest Department officials- Gopal A.A., Assistant Conservator of Forests, Somwarpet sub-division, Kodagu, and Rakshit, Range Forest Officer, Kushalnagar Territorial Range- who have been named as respondents in the complaint.

The respondents have been directed to appear in person before the Upalokayukta within four weeks from the date of receiving the notice and submit a report detailing the measures taken in the aftermath of the tragedy in which a woman tourist from Tamil Nadu was killed in the violent clash between two captive elephants. The incident also claimed the life of Marthanda, one of the elephants involved in the clash, which later succumbed to severe injuries sustained during the fight.

In the wake of the incident, Forest Minister Eshwar B. Khandre directed officials to prepare a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) focusing on visitor safety and instructed the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden to strengthen safety measures across elephant camps. Authorities have now ordered that tourists should not be allowed near elephants and must maintain a minimum distance of 100 feet while observing elephant bathing activities at camps across Karnataka. The restrictions are aimed at preventing similar incidents. Tourists have also been barred from directly feeding elephants with bananas, jaggery, sugarcane or other food items. Meanwhile, the Forest Department has temporarily shut the Dubare camp until revised safety protocols are put in place.

The camp is expected to remain closed until visitor safety SOPs are finalised. A few other elephant camps in the State are also closed awaiting SOPs.

Man arrested

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The Kollegal CID Police Forest Mobile Squad has arrested a 43-year-old man for attempting to illegally sell Grey Francolins, called Goujala Hakki in Kannada, on the outskirts of Dasanapura village in Kollegal taluk near here on Thursday. After receiving a tip off, the squad raided the place on Thursday and found a person attempting to sell the birds. A case has been registered.

THE HINDU GROUP

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Or write to us at
customercare@thehindu.co.in
Scan the QR code to register your feedback

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SANJAY GANDHI POST GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
RAEBARELI ROAD, LUCKNOW-226014 (U.P.), INDIA
TELEPHONE: 91-0522-2494000, 2495000, 2496000, 2494304, 2495554

Recruitment Examination 2025-26

In continuation of Advertisement No. I/08/1-11/Rectt/2025-26 and Advertisement No. I/08/12/Rectt/2025-26, Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGIMS) Lucknow, hereby informs all applicants that the Computer Based Recruitment Tests (CBRT) for various advertised posts shall be conducted during 19th to 23rd June 2026.

Important Information for Candidates:-

1. **Mode of Examination:** All examinations shall be conducted exclusively in Computer Based Test (CBT) mode.
2. **Two-Stage Admit Card Process:** Admit cards shall be issued in two stages:
   - A. **City Intimation Slip**- This will be released at least 15 days prior to the examination date and will indicate the allotted examination city & detailed instructions.
   - B. **Final Admit Card**- This will be released approximately 48 hours prior to the candidate's examination date and will contain the exact examination centre address, reporting time.
3. Candidates are advised to regularly visit the official SGPGIMS website for all updates related to examination dates, admit cards, other important instructions on official website of Institute https://sgpgims.org.in
4. Candidates are advised to keep their login credentials, registered mobile number, and email ID active throughout the recruitment process. Candidates are advised to carefully read and strictly follow all instructions related to the examination before appearing for the examination
5. For any query Candidate may contact at the **Email: sgpgimshelpdesk@gmail.com** & on **Helpline +91-9942875178 (10:00AM-5:00PM, Monday-Friday).**

ADVT. No.: I/15/Rectt/2026-27 Dated: 23.05.2026 Director

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
NOTICE OF INVITING TENDER

DRM (S&T)/ North Western Railway /Jaipur, for and on behalf of the President of India, invite E-Tenders from registered tenderer/bidders for the following work **E-Tender Notice No. SNT-JP-09-2026-27 Date: 20.05.2026 1.Name of work with its location** : Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract for Electronics Interlocking (EI) System Hitatchi Make at 35 EI stations & 7 Auto huts for 3 Years of Jaipur Division. **2. Approx. Cost of work (Rs.)** : Rs. 9,61,22,185.26/- **3. Bid Security (Rs.)** : Rs. 19,22,500/- (Online Payment Only **4. Date & Time for submission up to on www.ireps.gov.in** : 12.06.2026 Up to 15.00 hrs. **5. Website Particulars & Notice board location** : www.ireps.gov.in, and DRM office/NWR/Jaipur. **756-DE/26**

Please join us on /NWRailways NWRailways_

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
NOTICE OF INVITING E-TENDER

SR.DMM-Jaipur, acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites following E-Tender. **Tender No.** : 51265755 **Brief Description** : DESIGN, MANUFACTURE, SUPPLY, TESTING, COMMISSIONING, MAINTENANCE and Comprehensive annual maintenance contract (AMC) OF PASSENGER ESCALATORS AS PER RDSO SPECIFICATION NO. RDSO/PE/SPEC/TL/0095 (REV '4') - 2026 OR LATEST **Quantity** : 10 Nos. **Date and time for submission of tender** : 15.06.2026 at 14.25 hrs. **Note**: - Bidders will be able to submit their original/ revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders and No any modification advise shall be issued by New paper. Above E-tenders full description is available on ireps website https:// www.ireps.gov.in **762-DE/26**

Please join us on /NWRailways NWRailways_

PUBLIC NOTICE

This Notice is issued on behalf of My client **Mr.Shreyas Iyengar.H.S S/o Sheshadri.H.S** to bring the notice of the general public that, he is intends to purchase the schedule property from **1.Mrs.Bimal Chouhan** W/o Late. Mohinder Pal Chouhan & her children **2.Sandeep Kumar Chouhan, 3. Monika Chohan.**

If any, person / firm / institution / company having any claim or right in respect of the Schedule Property by way of inheritance, sale, agreement, mortgage, lease, lien, license, gift, possession, legal heirs, partners or encumbrance howsoever or otherwise is hereby required to intimate in writing to the undersigned within **Seven (7) days** from the date of publication of this notice of his/her/their share or claim, with all supporting documents failing which reference to such claim and the claims, if any, of such person shall be treated as waived and not binding on our client.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of immovable residential property bearing **Site No.24/B,** formed in Assessment No.48/2A, situated at **Dasarahalli Village, Yeshwanthapura Hobi, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore,** previously comes under the Limits of Dasarahalli CMC, presently within the limits of Bangalore North City Corporation, New Ward No.15, measuring East to West: **40 feet** and North to South: **15 feet**, in all measuring **600 Sq.feet,** together with R.C.C building thereon and bounded on ::

East by : Road, West by : Site No.17, North by : Property belongs to Mr.Dyavanna, South by : Site No.24/A.

H. Prahlada, Advocate & Solicitor,
For H.P.Law, #2, 3rd Floor, Venkateshwara Complex, Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore-560022
M : 7760061073

NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that my client is verifying title of Site No. 404, formed by the Department of Health and Family Welfare Services and Medical Education Employees House Building Co-operative Society Ltd., situated at Sreegandadakaval Village, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, measuring 60 ft. × 40 ft., totally 2400 sq. ft., bounded by: East–Site No. 418, West–40 ft. Road, North–Site No. 403, South–Site No. 405. It is also stated that the earlier Sale Deed dated 08-12-1989, registered as Document No. 5039, executed by the Health Society in favour of **Sri A. Rama Murthy, Registered in the office of SRO Bangalore North(now Peenya) has been lost.**

Any person having any claim, right, charge, lien, mortgage, litigation or objection over the said property shall submit the same with documents to the undersigned **within 7 days** from publication, failing which no claim shall be entertained.

NAGARAJU, Advocate
No. 83, 14th Cross, Ashoknagar,
B.S.K. 1st Stage, Bengaluru -50.
M: 9901994341
Email: naga.kmr99@gmail.com

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
(A Government Of India Undertaking)
Regional Office : Mandya No. 4 F, Vivekananda Nagar, Chikka Mandya Kere, Mandya - 571401 Mob.: 9444655533 Email id : recmandyaro@canarabank.com

DEMAND NOTICE [SECTION 13(2)]
TO BORROWERS/ GUARANTORS/MORTGAGORS
NOTICE ISSUED UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002

We, Canara Bank, had issued Demand Notices under Section 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Security Interest Act 2002 by Registered Post with Acknowledgment Due (RPAD) to the addresses furnished to the Bank as mentioned below. Further, Bank had served the said demand notices by affixture at the addresses given. The contents of the said notices are mentioned herein below.

Branch : Honnaganahalli Branch (1878)

Name And Address Of The Borrowers/ Co-borrowers / Mortgagors / Guarantors : 1) Borrower And Mortgagor : Sri. Narasimhaiah N D S/o Late Marigowda, Resident Of Nagarasanakote Village, Chikkanahalli Post, Sathanur Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara Dist - 562126. **2) Co-borrower : Sri. Late Mutthuraju N N** S/o Narasimhaiah N D, Resident Of Nagarasanakote Village, Chikkanahalli Post, Sathanur Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara Dist - 562126. **3) Guarantor : Sri. Mahadeva N S** S/o Shivanna, Resident Of Nagarasanakote Village, Chikkanahalli Post, Sathanur Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara Dist - 562126. **4) Since Above Co-borrower Is Deceased, He Is Represented By His Father Sri. Narasimhaiah N D** S/o Late Marigowda, Resident Of Nagarasanakote Village, Chikkanahalli Post, Sathanur Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara Dist - 562126.

[Details of the credit facility/ies availed by the Borrower]

Loan No.	Nature of Loan	Date of Sanction	Limit	Liability with interest as on 06-05-2026	Rate of Interest (including 2% penal interest)
187861 9012316	Housing Loan	27-06-2019	Rs. 10,00,000.00	Rs. 11,97,790.22	10.90%

Total Liability Amount : **Rs. 11,97,790.22 (Rupees Eleven Lakhs Ninety Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety and Twenty Two Paisa Only)** with further cost and charges, Interest and incidental expenses and costs.

NPA Date : 15-09-2021 **Demand Notice Dated : 06-05-2026**

Name of Title holder : SRI. NARASIMHAIAH N D S/O LATE MARIGOWDA

Equitable Mortgage of Immovable : All That Piece And Parcel Of Old Sy No. 59/2, New Khaneshumari No. 5-59/3, Computer No. 15290202900500259, Panchayath Property No. 5-59/3, Situated At Nagarasanakote Village, Sathanur Hobli, Sathanur Gram Panchayath, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara Dist. **Measuring : East To West- 37 ½ Feet, North To South- 45 Feet. Bounded By:** East- Govt Halla, **West-** Property Of Vasthalamma, **North -** Road, **South:** Property Of Vasthalamma.

You are here by called upon to pay **Canara Bank**, within a period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice, the respective amount mentioned here above, failing which **Canara Bank** will take necessary action under the provisions of the said Act, against the secured assets including taking possession of the secured assets of the Borrowers and the Guarantors. The powers available to **Canara Bank** under the Act include (i) power to take possession of the secured assets of the Borrowers / Guarantors / Mortgagors including the rights to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale for realising secured assets and any transfer of secured assets by **Canara Bank** shall vest in the transferee rights in or in relation to, the secured asset transferred as if the transfer has been made by you. In terms of the provisions of section 13(13) of the said Act, you are hereby prohibited from transferring, either by way of sale, lease or otherwise (other than in the ordinary course of your business), any of the secured assets as referred to in the Demand Notice affixed and also Hypothecated / Mortgaged to the bank without prior written consent of the Bank. The notice is issued in terms of Section (13)2 of the said Act.

Date : 23-05-2026 **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Place : Mandya **Canara Bank**

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)
Tender Notice No. TBM-SG-CN-2026-27-02-OT Dated:20/05/2026
(TWO PACKET SYSTEM)

For and on behalf of The President of India, The Deputy Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, Construction, Southern Railway, Tambaram invites e-tender for the following works:-

Item No.	Name of the work
1	Provision of Electronic Interlocking Signalling arrangements (Both Indoor and Outdoor) and Telecommunication arrangements at Podanur Junction in connection with 1) New coaching terminal at PTJ 2) Creation of Trip Maintenance/Advance Inspection Center at PTJ 3) Interlocking of stabling line with new EI and by-pass line between CBE-IGU and 4) Development of coach maintenance facilities at PTJ.

Item No.	Cash value in (₹)	Bid Security (EMD) (₹)	Last Date and time of submission of e-Tender through IREPS site	Cost of Tender Document (₹)	Period of Completion in month (s)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1	33,44,74,705.63	66,89,500/-	12/06/2026	0	Ten (10)

Tenderers can view full details of tender and submit their offer at the e-tender portal **www.ireps.gov.in** of Indian Railways.
The supply / work is subject to GST rules applicable from time to time.

Dy. CHIEF SIGNAL & TELECOMMUNICATION ENGINEER / CONSTRUCTION / S.Rly.TAMBARAM, CHENNAI-600045

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE, INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION (ISRO)
CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP
ISRO-TELEMETRY TRACKING & COMMAND NETWORK (ISTRAC)
Plot No.12 & 13, 3rd Main, 2nd Phase, Peenya Industrial Estate, Bengaluru-560 058. Ph:080-28094541, 4185, 4144

BRIEF E-TENDER NOTICE

1. On behalf of President of India, **item rate E-Tender** is invited from Contractors of appropriate class for the following work.

1	Name of Work	**Supply, Installation and Commissioning of DC breakers, Uninyvin cables and battery bank stands at IDSN campus, ISTRAC, Byalalu, Bengaluru**
2	E-tenders Notice	**ISTRAC/CMG/E/MAINT/E-Tender-10/ 2026-2027 Dated:22.05.2026**
3	Estimate cost put to tender	**Rs. 20.48 Lakhs**
4	Tender Document details	**E-Tenders**
5	Period of completion in months reackoned from the 15th day of date of issue of work order	**Three (03) months**
6	Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	**From 16.00 hrs. on 23.05.2026 to 06.06.2026 till 16.00 hrs.**
7	Bid clarification	**From 11.00 hrs on 24.05.2026 to 07.06.2026 till 16.00 hrs.**
8	Last date and time of reply to Bid clarification	**08.06.2026 up to 16.00 hrs.**
9	Last date & time of receipt of tenders	**09.06.2026 up to 16.00 hrs.**
10	Due date and time of opening of tenders	**11.06.2026 after 11.00 hrs.**
11	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**Rs. 40,960/-**

2. For eligibility criteria and others details, interested tenderers may please refer to the detailed bilingual (Hindi-English) Notice Inviting Tenders (NIT) on the website: **https://www.isro.gov.in/Tenders.html** and tender free view at **https://www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO.**

Sd/- Group Head, CMG

No. Q-15014/01/2023-CPA
Government of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
2nd floor, Prithvi Wing, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road, New Delhi

Subject: Appointment of two (2) Full-time (Technical) Member in the Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas -reg.

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for selection and appointment of two (2) Full-time Member (Technical) to the Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas, Delhi.

2. The Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas (CAQM) is a Statutory Body established under the Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Act, 2021 (29 of 2021). The Member shall be a full-time incumbent.

The detailed advertisement is available on the website of the Ministry at https://moef.gov.in and website of the CAQM at https://caqm.nic.in

Director (CP)
Tele ph.. 011-20819195
Email: v.pazhaniyandi@gov.in

CBC 13101\11\0003\2627

PEGASUS ASSETS RECONSTRUCTION PRIVATE LIMITED
55-56, 5th Floor, Free Press House, Nariman Point Mumbai - 400 021. Tel.: 022 61884700
E-Mail : sys@pegasus-arc.com, URL : pegasus-arc.com

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SALE BY E-AUCTION

Sale of Immovable Properties under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rules 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower, Co Borrowers, Guarantors and Mortgagors that the below described Secured Assets Mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, being **M/s Pegasus Assets Reconstruction Private Limited** acting in its capacity as **Trustee of Pegasus Group Thirty-Nine Trust 2 (Pegasus),** having being assigned the dues of the below mentioned borrower along with underlying securities, interest by RBL Bank Limited vide Assignment Agreement **Dated 30-09-2021** under the provisions of SARFAESI Act,2002.

The Authorized officer of Pegasus has **Physical Possession** of the below mentioned mortgaged property under the provisions of the SARFAESI Act and SARFAESI Rules. In view of the aforesaid the below mentioned mortgaged property will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis.**

The details of Auction are as follows :-

Name of the Borrower(s), Co-Borrower(s) and Mortgagors :	**1. M/s. Arfa Meraj Trading Company 2. M/s. HKGN and Company 3. Mr. Javeedulla Khan 4. Smt. Shazia Sultana**
Outstanding Dues for which the secured assets are being sold :	**Rs. 4,08,19,192.65 (Rupees Four Crore Eight Lakhs Nineteen Thousand and One Hundred and Ninety-Two and Sixty-Five Paisa Only) as on 03-05-2024** along with further interest at contractual rate and cost, charges and expenses thereon till the date of payment and realization.
Details of Secured Asset being Immovable Property which is being sold	Apartment No.: B – 003, having a super built up area of 3500 Square Feet along with 20% undivided share in Land i.e., 872.5 Square Feet and Car Parking in the Basement Floor in the building known as "Govianu Grace Garden" Katha PID No. 92/31/2, Formed in Property No. 8, New No. 2, Benson Road, Benson Town, Bangalore, **Owned by Mr. Javeedulla Khan and Smt. Shazia Sultana Vide Registered Sale Deed Bearing No. 4829 of 2017-2018.**
CERSAI ID :	**Security Interest ID : 400032529856 Asset ID : 200032476596**
Reserve Price below which the Secured Asset will not be sold. (In Rs.) :	**Rs. 2,30,00,000.00 (Rupees Two Crores Thirty Lakhs Only)**
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) :	**Rs. 23,00,000.00 (Rupees Twenty-Three Lakhs Only).**
Claims, if any, which have been put forward against the property and any other dues known to Secured creditor and value.	A notice has been affixed to the property by Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) claiming pending charges. The buyer needs to ascertain the same prior to submission of the bid and such charges shall be borne by the buyer.
Inspection of Properties :	**02.06.2026**
Contact Person and Phone No. :	**Bhaskar Sarat Turaga, (M) : 9902045750 Shankar Balasubramanian (M) : 8056178667**
Last date for submission of Bid :	**08.06.2026 till 4:00 PM**
Time and Venue of Bid Opening :	**E-Auction / Bidding through Website : (https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net) on 09.06.2026 from 10.00 AM to 11.00 AM.**

This publication is also a Fifteen (15) days' notice to the aforementioned Borrowers / Co-Borrowers / Guarantors / Mortgagors under Rule 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. For the detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to Secured Creditor's **Website i.e. http://www.pegasus-arc.com/assets-to-auction.html or website https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net** or contact the aforesaid contact person/s. You can also contact service provider **E Procurement Technologies Ltd. Auction Tiger Bidder Support Nos: 079-68136805 / 68136837 Mobile :+91 9265562821 & 9374519754, Email : vijay.shetty@auctiontiger.net, chintan.bhatt@auctiontiger.net, support@auctiontiger.net** for Technical Support before submitting any bid.

Authorised Officer
Pegasus Assets Reconstruction Pvt. Ltd.
(In its capacity of Trustee of PEGASUS GROUP 39 TRUST 2)

Date : 22-05-2026
Place : Bangalore

DELHI PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES AND RESEARCH UNIVERSITY
(State University of GNCT of Delhi, Established under Act 07 of 2008, GNCTD)
Pushp Vihar, Sector-3, M.B. Road, New Delhi-110017, India

ADMISSIONS NOTIFICATION
(Academic Year 2026–27)

Delhi Pharmaceutical Sciences and Research University is a premier institution of the Government of NCT of Delhi dedicated to excellence in Pharmaceutical Education and Allied Health Sciences. Recognized as India's first Pharmacy University, DPSRU has earned accreditation with an 'A' Grade by NAAC and has also been granted 12(B) status by UGC. The University's distinguished alumn hold key positions in healthcare, academia, research, and the pharmaceutical industry across India and abroad contributing significantly to global healthcare services..

Admissions to various Undergraduate and Postgraduate programmes for the academic session 2026–27 will commence from 22nd May 2026 onwards. The Admission Prospectus can be downloaded from the University website (www.dpsru.edu.in). DPSRU Official Website.

The application form filling and submission process will be conducted online, while the admission/counselling process will be held in physical mode. Details regarding last date for submission of applications, course wise eligibility criteria, and other admission related information are provided in the Prospectus.

The Various programmes offered by the University are listed as under

PROGRAMMES / COURSES

DELHI INSTITUTE OF PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCE AND RESEARCH (DIPSAR)
- D. Pharm.
- B. Pharm.
- M. Pharm. in Pharmaceutical Chemistry
- M. Pharm. in Pharmaceutics
- M. Pharm. in Pharmacology
- M. Pharm. in Industrial Pharmacy
- M. Pharm. in Quality Assurance
- M.Sc. Clinical Research

SCHOOL OF PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES (SPS)
- B. Pharm.
- B. Pharm. (Ayurveda)
- M. Pharm. in Industrial Pharmacy
- M. Pharm. in Drug Regulatory Affairs
- M. Pharm. in Pharmaceutical Analysis
- M. Pharm. in Pharmaceutical Biotechnology
- M. Pharm. in Pharmacognosy & Phytochemistry
- Executive M. Pharm. (Drug Regulatory Sciences)

SCHOOL OF PHYSIOTHERAPY (SOP)
- BPT
- MPT (Sports Science)
- MPT (Cardio-Pulmonary Science)
- MPT (Pediatrics & Neurological Sciences)

SCHOOL OF ALLIED HEALTH SCIENCES & MANAGEMENT (SAHSM)
- BBA (Healthcare)
- MBA (Healthcare & Hospital Management)
- MBA (Pharmaceutical Management)
- MBA (International Trade Management)
- Masters in Public Health (MPH)

ACADEMY OF SPORTS SCIENCE RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT (ASSRM)
- B.Sc. (Hons.) Sports Science
- M.Sc. Sports Nutrition

MEDICAL LABORATORY AND LIFE SCIENCES
- DMLT
- BMLS
- B.Sc. (Hons.) Biomedical Science
- M.Sc. (Artificial Intelligence in Medicine)

Admission to Diploma/UG programs will be on merit basis of the qualifying exam
Admission to PG programs will be through CUET/GPAT & Merit of Academic Score.
If seats are vacant after 1st round of counselling then admission for 2nd round of counselling for Non GPAT/Non CUET students will be on the basis of merit of Academic Score.
Candidates are advised to refer to the Prospectus or website for detailed information

For more information:
Website: www.dpsru.edu.in
Website link: https://dpsru.edu.in/admissions
Email ID: admissions@dpsru.edu.in
Contact Number: 011-29552055

Sd/-
Registrar, DPSRU

DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0066/26-27

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DATE 23-05-2026 to 02-06-2026
SRI KANCHIPURAM RESHME CENTRE
No. 58, Krishna Building, Sampige Road, 5th Cross, Near Malleswaram Bridge, Bangalore.
CALL - 9632781499

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Rashmita wife of No 13759187F Rank Ex Hav (Clk SD) Name Nepal Chhatria presently residing at B-19, Income Tax Colony, Jalahalli West, Bengaluru-560013, have changed my name from Rashmita to Rashmita Chhatria for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 23-02-2026 before Notary Public K C Pemmaiah, B'lore.

I, YASHVI Rajesh Jain, C/o Rajesh Kumar Jain, R/at Meadow in The Sun Block G-002 Owners Court West Kasavanahalli Bengaluru-560035, have changed my name from Yashvi Rajesh Jain to Yashvi Jain for all legal purposes, vide affidavit dated 22-05-2026 sworn before Notary K.V. Mani, Bengaluru.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Sathyavani Pratap Johnny Suresh W/O, Pratap Johnny Suresh R/o #182/A, S.G. Palya, 5th Cross Road, Venkateshwara Layout, Bengaluru -560029 have changed my name to Sathyavani Pratap for all purposes

AUTOMOTIVE

Sale Truck Leyland 6w 2014 Model 4 Nos in Good Condition Without Insurance in Hoskote Phone - DFC 9591997014 / 9591997013.

SITUATION VACANT

GENERAL

DRIVER WANTED in Hennur, Bengaluru. Must be experienced in driving Hyundai Creta. Call 8050061533

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No. 1 Kannada Daily

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INAUGURATION

Date: 23rd, May 2026
Time: 10.30 AM

Shri. Ramalinga Reddy
Hon'ble Transport Minister &
Muzrai Minister, Govt of Karnataka

Dr. Vijay Sankeshwar
Chairman
VRL Group

23rd & 24th May 2026
(Saturday & Sunday)
Timings: 10 AM - 7 PM

National College Jayanagara Ground
2nd Main Road, 7th Block, Near City College
Jayanagar, Bengaluru - 560 070

Scan for location

For more details contact: Bengaluru: Sowjanya - 88844 32337 | Sebastian - 82969 60291 Tumakuru: Yatish - 88844 32363

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Erstwhile BBMP's stray dog feeding programme shelved

It has been put on the back burner mainly due to a lack of interest, which activists say 'should not have happened'

Chetan B.C.
BENGALURU

The objective behind the programme was that, in certain areas, scarcity of food forces dogs to form aggressive packs, increasing the likelihood of dog-bites. SUDHAKARA JAIN

The erstwhile Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike's (BBMP) ambitious project of feeding stray dogs, which was announced in 2025, has been shelved following the formation of five new corporations under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), sources said.

The project has been put on the back burner mainly due to a lack of interest, which activists said 'should not have happened'. However, it is a legal obligation for the corporations to feed stray dogs as per the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules, 2023, and the civic body itself had clarified that feeding is a 'statutory requirement' for them.

ABC surgeries

According to a GBA official, the feeding project was not even considered during budget allocation, although the corporations have earmarked funds for overall stray dog management.

A major portion of the allocation was dedicated to establishing infrastructure for relocation and the ABC programme. "During the transition to the GBA, files were transferred to different corporations. At the corporation level, the immediate focus was on strengthening ABC surgeries and complying with Supreme Court directives, so the feeding programme was sidelined," the official said. He noted that the corporations may take it up in the future, but not immediately.

However, *The Hindu* has learned from a senior official that once the programme received a negative response from a section of society, and attracted negative publicity over confusion between 'chicken rice' and 'biryani', senior officials at the administrative level lost interest and did not move the file forward even when the BBMP was active.

Incidentally, bidders were willing to participate in the tender process.

When the BBMP's tender document mentioned chicken rice, it was mistaken for biryani and trolled, prompting the BBMP to issue a clarification. The BBMP pointed out that feeding was not a new initiative in the city, as it had been launched during the COVID-19 pandemic. The BBMP had arrangements with city restaurants, and leftovers were being fed to dogs. As a continuation of that effort, food was provided to a specific number of dogs in 2024 as well.

Disappointment

Nevina Kamath, an animal rights activist, expressed dissatisfaction over shelving the feeding programme despite the rules clearly mandating civic bodies to ensure that dogs are fed.

"If Resident Welfare Associations (RWA) or apartment associations do not exist, the onus falls on civic bodies to feed dogs," she said. "The ABC Rules mandated it because there are very few food-scavenging options for stray animals after the Solid Waste Management Rules were notified. Even at the RWA level, feeding barely happens. So, this feeding programme was an excellent move," she said.

Anil Sagar, a dog-feeder in south Bengaluru, pointed out that aggression among stray dogs is linked to hunger, and the feeding programme was designed to reduce hunger, thereby limiting aggression. "This was a more compassionate way of dealing with aggression than euthanasia," he said.

According to civic body officials, the erstwhile BBMP's objective behind planning the programme was that, in certain areas, scarcity of food forces dogs to form aggressive packs, increasing the likelihood of dog-bites. The feeding programme was aimed at addressing such issues.

Ms. Nevina stressed that corporations should ensure that the ABC Rules are followed, which means that RWAs or corporations must ensure that dogs are fed.

Designated dog-feeding spots fail to serve purpose

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Greater Bengaluru Authority has identified 455 feeding spots across five corporations in the city. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

While the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has identified more than 450 designated dog-feeding spots across Bengaluru to reduce human-animal conflict, feeders and animal welfare volunteers said that many of the locations are impractical, inaccessible and disconnected from where dogs actually live, ignoring the purpose of identifying places.

The GBA has identified 455 feeding spots across five corporations in the city. The East Corporation recorded the highest number with 150 spots, followed by 90 in the Central City Corporation limits. Officials said the locations were chosen in low-footfall public spaces and away from hospitals, schools, metro stations and bus stands to minimise public inconvenience and conflict.

However, feeders argued that the planning ignores the territorial behaviour of street dogs, making several feeding spots ineffective in practice.

Mahadev K., a volunteer with Halasuru Canine Squad, said dogs mostly remain close to the areas they inhabit and cannot be shifted to isolated feeding zones far away from their territory. In several places, the designated locations are difficult to access on a daily basis and have gradually turned into garbage dumping points instead of organised feeding spaces.

The corporation officials admitted that several feeding spots are located away from main roads and populated stretches, but maintained that identifying spaces had become difficult because of resistance from residents in many areas.

Pommala Sunil Kumar, Commissioner of the North Corporation, said 70 feeding spots were identified in the corporation limits after consultations with animal welfare groups and individual feeders. He said some locations are functioning effectively, but their upkeep largely depends on individuals regularly maintaining them. Asha, a dog feeder and rescuer from HSR Layout, said designated feeding zones are a good idea in principle, but restricting feeding only to such spots is not practical.

Priyam Chhetri, a volunteer with South Bengaluru Cares, said several feeding boards have been installed either near garbage dumps or along busy roads, making the spaces unsafe for both dogs and residents. "People, traffic and constant movement around dogs while they are eating can easily spook them. In some places, the feeding boards are barely visible because they are surrounded by unsegregated waste," she said.

She argued that authorities and resident welfare associations appear to expect all street dogs in a locality to gather at one feeding point despite dogs naturally being territorial. "You cannot bring dogs from different areas to one common spot. The entire exercise loses relevance if it is not practical on the ground," she said. She further said the larger goal of reducing human-dog conflict can only succeed if feeding spots are identified in consultation with feeders and based on the actual movement and habitation patterns of community dogs.

After buses, BMTC plans to turn bus tickets into advertising space

Corporation invites bids from advertising agencies for granting licence rights to print advertisements on ETM ticket rolls

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

The tender comes at a time when the BMTC has already been aggressively monetising its assets through advertisements on buses, bus shelters, depots and transit hubs. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

After wrapping its buses with advertisements, the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) is now looking to turn even its passenger tickets into advertising space. The BMTC plans to display advertisements on the back side of ETM ticket rolls used across its fleet.

The BMTC has invited bids from advertising agencies for granting licence rights to print advertisements on Electronic Ticketing Machine (ETM) thermal rolls issued to passengers across Bengaluru. The move is aimed at generating additional non-fare revenue for the cash-strapped transport corporation, which operates nearly 7,000 buses and carries around 45 lakh passengers daily.

The move is aimed at generating additional non-fare revenue for the cash-strapped transport corporation

According to the BMTC officials, the strong response to advertisements wrapped on its buses has significantly strengthened the corporation's non-fare revenue stream. The advertisements displayed on the BMTC buses are currently generating around ₹4.79 crore every month, translating to an annual revenue of nearly ₹57.54 crore. The officials said that the corporation expects this figure to rise substantially and has projected overall advertisement revenue to touch nearly ₹230 crore over the next three to four years. Encouraged by this growth, the BMTC is now exploring additional advertising avenues within its services, including displaying advertisements on passenger tickets, official added.

"The selected advertising agency will have the rights to provide advertisement artwork that will be printed on the reverse side of the BMTC tickets through its authorised ETM roll supplier. The contract period will initially be for one year, and can be extended by another year based on performance," official told *The Hindu*. The BMTC currently consumes around 72 lakh ETM thermal rolls annually and nearly six lakh rolls every month, with each roll printing approximately 3,750 tickets. The officials believe this gives advertisers access to one of the largest commuter networks in the city.

Aggressive efforts

The tender comes at a time when the BMTC has already been aggressively monetising its assets through advertisements on buses, bus shelters, depots and transit hubs. "With this latest move, even the small paper ticket issued to commuters could become an advertising medium for brands, government campaigns and commercial promotions. Under the proposed system, the advertising agency will have to quote a monthly licence fee payable to the BMTC while separately bearing the printing costs of the advertisements. The actual printing of advertisements will continue to be handled by the BMTC's authorised ETM roll supplier," the official added.

Restrictions

The corporation has, however, imposed several restrictions on the nature of advertisements that can appear on the tickets. Advertisements related to tobacco, liquor, narcotics, political campaigns, religious content and obscene material have been prohibited. The BMTC has also reserved the right to reject any advertisement deemed objectionable or against public interest.

The BMTC has reserved 10% of the ticket rolls for its own advertisements or government campaigns, for which the selected advertising agency cannot claim any revenue.

New 'Vegadootha' express bus services flagged off on two key routes in city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The newly launched 'Vegadootha' limited-stop express bus services in Bengaluru on Friday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) has launched new 'Vegadootha' limited-stop express bus services aimed at improving suburban connectivity and reducing travel time for commuters travelling across the city's outskirts.

On Friday, Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy launched the new bus services, which will operate on two key routes: Tin Factory to H. Cross and Hoskote to Nelamangala.

According to the BMTC, the corporation currently operates 6,275 schedules with nearly 65,945 daily trips, covering around 13 lakh km and serving an average of 45 lakh passengers every day. The Vegadootha services, which already run on 11 routes connecting suburban towns, benefit nearly 60,000 passengers daily. As part of the expansion, a new route numbered EX-317HC will connect Tin Factory to H. Cross with seven schedules, operating 60 trips at a frequency of 30 minutes. Another route, EX-STRR-1, will connect Hoskote to Nelamangala with 11 schedules, providing a direct link that bypasses traffic congestion in central Bengaluru.

The fare for the Tin Factory-H. Cross route has been fixed at ₹60, while the Hoskote-Nelamangala route will cost ₹110. The routes will pass through key points, including K.R. Puram, Devanahalli, Doddaballapur, and other important suburban hubs.

Officials said that the initiative follows the State government's decision to extend the corporation's operational jurisdiction from 25 km to 40 km in the Greater Bengaluru Authority limits.

'Govt. extends funding to resume flights to Bidar and Kalaburagi'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Minister for Infrastructure Development M.B. Patil says that the flight service to Kalaburagi had earlier been suspended owing to financial losses.

The State government is extending viability gap funding of ₹28.47 crore to support and resume flight services from Bengaluru to Bidar and Kalaburagi, the district headquarters of Kalyana Karnataka region, said Infrastructure Development Minister M.B. Patil on Friday.

According to Mr. Patil, Star Air (Ghodawat Enterprises Limited) will operate flights on the Bengaluru-Bidar-Bengaluru and Bengaluru-Kalaburagi-Bengaluru sectors from June 1 to 10, respectively.

Mr. Patil said the flight service to Kalaburagi had earlier been suspended owing to financial losses. In the case of Bidar, services were being operated with special support from the Kalyana Karnataka Regional Development Board.

Taking into account the growth of industries, education, tourism, agriculture and commercial activities in Kalyana Karnataka, the government has decided to revive the services under the regional air connectivity initiative, the Minister said.

He further said the government was committed to enhancing air connectivity to tier-2 and tier-3 cities across the State. Such initiatives would not only accelerate regional economic growth but also contribute to infrastructure development, he noted.

Mr. Patil had recently held several rounds of discussions with ministerial colleagues from the Kalyana Karnataka region and representatives of various airline companies regarding the resumption of flight services.

'Protest called by Cockroach Janta Party not permitted'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The police on Friday cautioned against gathering for a "peaceful human chain" near Town Hall in the city after a purported invite poster began circulating on social media under the heading "Cockroach Janta Party Karnataka", a satirical online outfit.

In the purported poster, the outfit invited people to join a peaceful human chain near Town Hall on Sunday. Soon after, the police issued a statement saying that no person had obtained permission to conduct such a demonstration, nor had anyone sought permission from the Greater Bengaluru Authority.

The police said such a demonstration cannot be held on the streets, as it would violate a High Court order stating that protests should only be held at Freedom Park.

"The public is advised not to knowingly or unknowingly forward or share the said message through social media platforms," the police noted.

Opposition to planned cricket stadium grows

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A city-based advocate Umapathi S. has filed a complaint with the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden, State Environmental Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) and the Additional Director General of Forests (Wildlife) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), opposing the construction of a new international cricket stadium at Suryanagar 4th Phase in Anekal taluk, on the south-eastern outskirts of Bengaluru.

"In the larger public interest to urgently bring to the attention of the wildlife and environmental authorities a serious and ongoing environmental violation by the Karnataka Housing Board (KHB)- the substitution, without any fresh Environmental Clearance or Wildlife Assessment, of a quiet residential township for an 80,000-seater International Cricket Stadium located just 1,012 metres from the Bannerghatta National Park," the complaint stated. He pointed out various violations and to stop the work order to the KHB restraining all activities and to revoke the the Wildlife NOC issued to the KHB for the residential township- as the KHB has misrepresented the project purpose and the NOC does not extend, either in law or in fact, to a commercial cricket stadium.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will be laying the foundation stone for the stadium on May 23.

The Good Reporter: Story of rural journalists who were never expected to speak

Rishita Khanna
BENGALURU

"*Badi aayi patrakaar*"- the phrase was often hurled at the reporters of Khabar Lahariya whenever they introduced themselves as "journalists" in Banda, located in the Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh.

Families were warned by community and caste leaders that the womenled media organisation would "spoil village girls", while men would taunt the women selling newspapers door-to-door, asking whether they themselves were "available" for the same price as the paper, then sold for ₹2.

Started in 2002, nearly 25 years later, the same ridicule has become the title of their memoir, *Badi Aayi Patrakaar*, released in English as *The Good Reporter*, a collective memoir written by the organisation's all-women newsroom, tracing the journey of a rural feminist media collective built by women from marginalised communities who, the speakers said, were expected to do anything but question.

At a session hosted by the Bangalore International Centre on Friday on "The Story of Indian Media, in a Different Voice", members of the Khabar Lahariya reflected on the fear, humiliation and resistance that shaped both their reporting and their lives. The session was moderated by Vijeta Kumar, a faculty member at St. Joseph's University.

"There is enough media behind Ministers and MLAs. But the problems people in rural districts are facing, Dalits are facing, women are facing, still have no voice," said Kavita Bundelkhandi, co-founder of the paper, arguing that one cannot fully understand India without understanding its villages and those pushed to its margins.

Recalling one such moment from her reporting journey, she said villagers once told her they were ready to field her as an MLA candidate after she interviewed actor Shah Rukh Khan, a reflection, she said, of how journalism slowly transformed the way rural women reporters were seen within their own communities.

The speakers described how becoming reporters meant constantly negotiating hostility from society, families and within their own homes. They said there was constant pressure to hide experiences of harassment because society would use those stories as "proof" that journalism was "not meant for women". The discussion repeatedly returned to the emotional cost of trying to become both "a good reporter" and "a good woman". "Financially, socially, and mentally, the taboos we have fought against have blurred our lives and our work," Ms. Rizvi said. Several speakers reflected on how reporting assignments from 10 or 15 years ago still remain etched in memory not because of the story alone, but because of what it took to become "a reporter" in places where women were never expected to ask questions.

The speakers said the memoir, currently available in Hindi and English, will also be translated into Bundelkhandi or Bundeli, the language spoken across the Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, where many of the reporters come from and work.

Letter to DGP seeks crackdown on steroid abuse in gyms

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Concerned over rising incidents of violence, steroid abuse and other illegal activities in gyms across Karnataka, the member of State police complaint authority, Mohan Kumar Danappa, has written to the Director-General and Inspector-General of Police (DG&IGP) urging strict action and enhanced monitoring of fitness centres across the State.

In his letter, Mr. Danappa referred to a recent incident reported in Hassan, where a youth allegedly slipped into a coma after being brutally assaulted by another gym-goer over a trivial issue during a workout session. A case has been registered at the Badavane Police Station, and the incident had gone viral on social media. Mr. Danappa stated that while many youngsters pursue fitness through healthy lifestyles and natural supplements, some individuals are increasingly resorting to steroids, pre-workout stimulants, narcotic substances and intoxicants to build muscle mass rapidly. He warned that such substance abuse is leading to aggressive and inhuman behaviour among some gym members.

The letter also raised concerns over incidents of assault, intimidation and alleged harassment of women inside gyms.

The member further alleged that in some fitness centres, gym owners and trainers themselves are encouraging the use of testosterone-enhancing steroids and other prohibited substances.

Timings
BENGALURU

SATURDAY, MAY. 23
RISE 05:53 SET 18:40
RISE 12:14 SET 00:15

SUNDAY, MAY. 24
RISE 05:53 SET 18:40
RISE 13:05 SET 00:56

MONDAY, MAY. 25
RISE 05:53 SET 18:40
RISE 13:54 SET 01:34

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	34	15
Mysuru	34	22
Bengaluru	34	21

Bengaluru Today
31°C The weather will be slight warm. Few spells of moderate to heavy rain and thundershower to occur. Night will be comfortable.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
33°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be warm. Night also will be pleasant. Chances of light to moderate rain and thundershower.

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THE HINDU
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Despite West Asia conflict, Dubai remains key international destination

Hemanth C.S.
BENGALURU

Singapore is the second most popular international destination, with 1.39 lakh passengers. K. MURALI KUMAR

Dubai continues to be the top international destination from the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) despite the ongoing crisis in West Asia.

The KIA, among other airports in the country, reported cancellations of flights, especially to destinations in the West Asia region, in the wake of the conflict that erupted on February 28.

During the initial days of the conflict, a large number of flights were cancelled or rescheduled to the region.

Despite this, Dubai was the most popular destination from Bengaluru, as 2.02 lakh passengers travelled during the first three months of 2026.

Singapore was the second most popular international destination, with 1.39 lakh passengers, followed by Abu Dhabi with 1.33 lakh passengers.

The KIA operates direct flights to 11 destinations in West Asia which are: Abu Dhabi, Bahrain, Dammam, Doha, Dubai, Jeddah, Kuwait, Muscat, Ras Al Khaimah, Riyadh and Sharjah.

Due to the conflict, the number of passengers travelling to and from Bengaluru to these destinations had reduced. According to the DGCA's city pair wise international passenger statistics (scheduled) to and from the Indian territory during the quarter January-March 2026, all the above destinations saw a drop in passengers when compared to the quarter October-December 2025 data. During January-March 2026, as many as 6.15 lakh passengers travelled to these destinations as against 7.72 lakh passengers in October-December 2025 seeing a drop of 1.56 lakh passengers.

During the October-December 2025 period, as many as 2.34 lakh passengers travelled to Dubai as against 2.02 lakh in January-March 2026.

Abu Dhabi is the second most popular destination in the region which saw 1.77 lakh passengers travelling to and from Bengaluru during October-December 2025 compared to 1.33 lakh passengers in the first quarter of 2026.

Ras Al Khaimah, which is another city in the UAE, saw the least number of passenger movement among the 11 airports which have direct connectivity to Bengaluru.

The KIA officials said that flight services have been restored to all destinations in the region.

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has been allocated and utilised under the AnnaBhagya Scheme, ensuring free food grains for poor and middle-class families across the State
Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister
4.26 Crore
beneficiaries receive 10 kg of free food grains under the AnnaBhagya Scheme, strengthening household food security and easing the financial burden
D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Shakthi
Gruha Jyothi
Gruha Lakshmi
Yuva Nidhi
karnataka information
Scan the QR Code to Witness the Impact of 'AnnaBhagya'
Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Siddaramaiah along with Minister Shri K.H. Muniyappa inaugurating the AnnaBhagya Scheme

State Cabinet discusses revised draft of Karnataka Domestic Workers' Bill

The revised draft Bill, in a significant departure from the earlier one, excludes individual employers from the responsibility of paying a fee towards the welfare fund

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

A revised draft of The Karnataka Domestic Workers' (Social Security and Welfare) Bill was discussed in the Cabinet on Thursday. The revised draft Bill, in a significant departure from the first draft that was published in October last year, excludes individual employers from the responsibility of paying a fee towards the welfare fund of the domestic workers.

While the first draft explicitly classified platforms (such as Urban Company, Snabbit) as employers under the category of 'service providers', the revised version makes no such explicit mention. FILE PHOTO

Earlier draft say

According to the earlier draft, a maximum of 5% welfare fee was to be collected from employers, service providers and placement agencies, including platforms, for registration of domestic workers. In the new draft, individual employers are not required to pay this fee. It also makes no mention of the percentage of welfare fee.

While the first draft explicitly classified platforms (such as Urban Company, Snabbit) as employers under the category of "service providers", the revised version makes no such explicit mention.

The revised draft doesn't define "decent work condition" and excludes gig workers from the definition of domestic workers. It also does not define "discrimination".

The initial draft of the Bill prohibited employing domestic workers without a formal agreement that met the minimum labour standards and required details such as the worker's name, nature of work, working hours, wages, welfare fee, contributions and other benefits. The revised Bill has removed this clause. The workers will be eligible for minimum wages as per the Code on Wages 2019 and overtime payment, social security and welfare schemes, but eligibility for reasonable working hours, periods of rest and annual paid leave has been left out from the section that speaks about the rights of domestic workers.

Fixing and revision of minimum wages payable to domestic workers, number of work hours, weekly holiday and compensation for accidents or injury at the workplace are some of the other aspects omitted.

While the new draft mandates the registration of domestic workers, the penalty for non-registration has been reduced to a maximum fine of ₹5,000 from "imprisonment for up to three months and/or a fine of up to ₹20,000". Similarly, the penalty for payment of wages below the minimum wage has been reduced from ₹20,000 to ₹10,000.

After minimum wage revision, State pushes Centre for change in ESI ceiling

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

With the revised minimum wages notified on Saturday and with an average hike of about 60%, the Karnataka government is pushing the Centre to revise the ESI ceiling from the current ₹21,000 a month to ₹30,000 a month.

This is because a large part of the workforce, now covered under the ESI facility, will be out of the ESI cover for medical benefits as they would breach the ₹21,000 a month ceiling with the revised minimum wages.

"We have written to the Centre to revise the ceiling twice. We have also written to the Members of Parliament to revise the ceiling," Labour Minister Santosh Lad told *The Hindu*. He said that the State government would pursue the matter with the Centre.

The revision of minimum wages, mandated at least once in five years in the Minimum Wages Act 1948, was finally done on Saturday. It had been hanging since 2022-2023 as the unions had opposed the marginal increase of 5% to 10% notified then for 34 scheduled employments. The unions had demanded the wage calculation to be done as per the Supreme Court guidelines, and the Karnataka High Court had also upheld the demand. As many as four cases had been filed in the High Court against the fresh draft that was notified in April, 2025. The State government had also delayed notifying the final wages owing to the implementation of four industrial code, and arguments had been made against the minimum wage revision citing the provisions in Code of Wages.

The Karnataka government has urged the Centre to revise the ESI ceiling from the current ₹21,000 a month to ₹30,000 a month. FILE PHOTO

However, the unions had cited other provisions under the same Code to bring pressure on the government to notify the wages. Despite the Code on Wages coming into effect in November 2025, the final notification has been issued under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, as the code allows the completion of the previous notifications done under the Act. The final notification cites General Clauses Act, 1897, and Section 69 (2) of the Code on Wages, 2019, to enable it to notify the revised wages under the Minimum Wages Act.

The All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC), which waged a legal battle against the earlier notifications in 2022-2023, welcomed the government's decision.

"The revision has been long-pending and includes several positive and progressive measures such as the uniform common notification across different scheduled employments, inclusion of balanced diet for food costs and special consideration for the arduous nature of certain employments such as sanitation work, foundries and power plants," said AITUC general secretary D.A. Vijaybhaskar.

Police foil attempt to abduct cab driver, his friend

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

An attempt by four persons to abduct a cab driver along with his friend near Bagalur in the early hours of Friday was foiled by the police after a swift response by the Hoysala team following an emergency call made by one of the victims. According to the police, the incident occurred around 5 a.m. when four individuals, who had arrived from the airport, booked a cab. After boarding the cab, they allegedly threatened the driver with a knife near Srinivasa Nagar and demanded money. When the driver told them he was not carrying any money, the accused allegedly forced him to call a friend to the location. After the friend arrived, the four allegedly attempted to abduct him as well. However, the man managed to escape and immediately alerted the Namma 112 emergency helpline. The Hoysala-164 reportedly reached the spot within 16 minutes. On noticing the police, the accused allegedly attempted to flee. However, the police managed to arrest one of the accused and rescue the person who was being abducted.

Isolation centres in Bengaluru, Mangaluru amid Ebola alert

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka's Health Department has designated specialised isolation, quarantine and treatment facilities in State-run hospitals in Bengaluru and Mangaluru as part of precautionary measures amid Ebola alert.

This follows the Union Health Ministry's directions to all States and Union Territories to strengthen surveillance, hospital preparedness and rapid response systems.

The World Health Organization (WHO) declared the ongoing Ebola Disease (ED) outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Uganda as a "Public Health Emergency of International Concern" (PHEIC). In Bengaluru, the Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Chest Diseases has been identified as the isolation centre, while the Epidemic Diseases Hospital has been designated as the quarantine and treatment facility.

In Mangaluru, the Srinivas Port Hospital under the New Mangalore Port Authority has been identified as the quarantine centre, while the Wenlock District Hospital has been designated as the isolation and treatment centre.

Dedicated ambulance services have also been kept ready for transportation of suspected patients to these facilities, the department said in a public advisory.

The Health Department officials clarified that no Ebola cases have been reported in India so far. However, preparedness measures have been intensified in view of international travel and trade. The advisory urged the public not to panic unnecessarily and to rely only on official information released by health authorities.

Lokayukta probe finds major safety lapses in Bowring hospital wall collapse incident

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Lokayukta inquiry into the tragic compound wall collapse at the government-run Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospital in Shivajinagar has revealed multiple structural and administrative lapses that allegedly led to the accident, which claimed seven lives.

The incident occurred on April 29, 2026, when a section of the hospital's compound wall collapsed, killing seven persons, including women and children, and injuring several others.

Taking serious note of the incident, the Lokayukta visited the spot on April 30 and ordered a detailed investigation. A special team comprising police officers, engineers and technical experts was formed to probe the collapse.

According to the inquiry report, the compound wall had allegedly been constructed beyond the permissible height prescribed under building regulations. Investigators found that the wall had earlier been damaged in a lorry collision during 2008-09 and was later reconstructed using cement concrete blocks.

The spot where the compound wall collapsed at the Bowring hospital due to heavy rain on April 30. FILE PHOTO

The report further stated that nearly 1.8 metres of mud had been filled behind the wall without proper retaining wall design or engineering safeguards. Authorities also failed to provide drainage systems and weep holes to release rainwater pressure, leading to excessive pressure buildup and weakening of the structure.

The inquiry additionally revealed that debris and construction waste had been dumped in the area over the years, increasing stress on the wall.

The Lokayukta report also pointed to administrative negligence, stating that no permanent civil engineer had been appointed for the institution. Civic authorities were also accused of failing to monitor dangerous structures and encroachments around pedestrian pathways.

On May 21, senior IAS and IPS officers, officials from the Urban Development Department, GBA , Bengaluru Police, Health Department and hospital authorities appeared before the Lokayukta during a hearing. During the proceedings, the Karnataka government informed the Lokayukta that criminal cases had been registered against those responsible and notices had been issued to the engineers and officials concerned.

The Lokayukta directed authorities to identify similar unsafe structures across Bengaluru city and initiate preventive measures to avoid such tragedies in the future.

'Name an SC or ST person as next V-C of Bangalore varsity'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Teachers' Association and the Non-Teaching Employees' Association of Bangalore University have written to the Governor, the Chief Minister, the Deputy Chief Minister, the Minister for Higher Education, and the Karnataka State Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, requesting that the next Vice-Chancellor of the university be appointed from among professors belonging to the Scheduled Castes (SC) or Scheduled Tribes (ST).

Background

The matter was discussed in the Executive Committee meeting of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes Teachers' and Non-Teaching Employees' Associations of Bangalore University. The associations observed that since the establishment of the university in 1964, the government has appointed a total of 19 full-time Vice-Chancellors over the past 62 years. But not a single Vice-Chancellor belonging to the Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes has been appointed by the government.

At present, the Bangalore University has 380 non-teaching employees, of whom 200 belong to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (53%). Similarly, among the 115 permanent teaching faculty members, 75 professors (65%) belong to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Further, approximately 45% of the students of the university belong to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, as stated in the letter.

VTU announces results 10 minutes after exam

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) has released the results of the Bachelor of Engineering and Bachelor of Technology final semester exam, 10 minutes after completion of the final test.

Vice-Chancellor S. Vidyashankar and Registrar (evaluation) U.J. Ujwal released the results in Belagavi on Friday. The results are available on the university website https://results.vtu.ac.in.

Professor Vidyashankar claimed it was a record of sorts. "We have created history by announcing the final semester engineering exam results just 10 minutes after the examination ended. The VTU has always been at the forefront of adopting technology. This result itself is proof that the VTU is student friendly. Announcing results within just 10 minutes of exam completion is no easy task. I congratulate the administrative staff, exam section staff, and affiliated college staff who made this possible. Final-year students eagerly await results for jobs and higher education, so we ensured quick announcement," he said. "A total of 56,192 students appeared for the BE and BTech final semester exams. The exam ended at 5.30 p.m. on Friday, and by 5.40 p.m. the results were announced. Compared to previous years, the entire evaluation process was completed eight days earlier, breaking previous records. Earlier, results were announced within one hour of exam completion. This time, results were directly sent to students' mobile numbers," the V-C said.

The VTU has been able to declare results quickly. In May 2025, results for the 2021 batch of 50,321 students were announced within one hour of exam completion. In May 2024, results for the 2020 batch were announced within three hours.

The VTU has been able to declare results quickly, for some years now. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Waqf council urges State government to ensure protection during Bakrid

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The council has urged the govt. to issue directions to police authorities to ensure protection for lawful Bakrid rituals

The Karnataka State Waqf Council has submitted a memorandum to Home Minister G. Parameshwara seeking police protection and strict legal action against individuals attempting to create fear and disturbance during Bakrid celebrations. In the letter, signed by Waqf Council vice-chairman Moulana N.K.M. Shafi Saadi, the council stated that the Constitution guarantees every citizen the right to practise and propagate their religion, and that the ritual animal sacrifice conducted during Bakrid has been carried out peacefully for decades within the framework of the law.

The memorandum expressed concern over recent incidents in which certain groups allegedly attempted to create tension and fear through social media campaigns, threats, and intimidation targeting lawful religious practices.

The council urged the State government and the Home Department to issue clear directions to police authorities to ensure protection for lawful Bakrid rituals, and to take stringent action against those engaging in threats, violence, vehicle check, assault, or attempts to disturb communal harmony. The memorandum sought action against people spreading hate messages, misinformation, and provocative content on social media platforms. It appealed to the government to issue a public statement reaffirming its commitment to protecting religious freedom.

The council said Karnataka has long been known for peace, communal harmony, and co-existence, and expressed confidence that the government would safeguard the rights and security of every community equally.

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IN STORES

Material stories

Sculptural pieces celebrating texture, artistry, and thoughtful living

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This handcrafted furniture studio sources teak, rosewood, acacia, and mango wood from across India. The Callisto couch blends wood and cane. The handwoven cane detailing, along with its plush neutral cushions, adds a classic, textured element. Available: *@woodworm.in*

Tectona Grandis Furniture

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This handcrafted teakwood chair from the Ahmedabad-based furniture design studio is called The Seat of Continuum. With a carved base and a seamless, draped surface, it moves away from conventional separations between seat, support and surface. Available: *@tectonagrandis.in*

₹45,300

Freedom Tree

This handcrafted teakwood dining table gives a modern twist on a mid-century design. Its retro tapered legs and gently flared tabletop add just enough detail to be singular. Available: *@freedomtree.in*

₹1,599 upward

Drifa Cache Pot

This collection of cement planters is inspired by animals such as rabbits and poupis, sculpted faces, and decorative urns. Available in shades of beige and grey. The floral-inspired planters are also available in ceramic, with hand-painted motifs.
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THE HINDU
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CREDAI

Political activity set to pick up with notification for RS polls

Elections to four Rajya Sabha seats from Karnataka to be held on June 18; Congress may win 3 seats and BJP 1

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Political activity in the ruling Congress and opposition Bharatiya Janata Party is likely to intensify in the coming days with the notification of elections to four Rajya Sabha seats from Karnataka by the Election Commission of India on Friday. The elections will be held on June 18. The Congress is expected to win three seats while the BJP is likely to get one seat.

The elections have been necessiated by the completion of the term of senior leaders, including former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda of the JD(S), Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge (Congress), and BJP members K. Narayana and Iranna Kadadi.

Twenty-four seats, including four from Karnataka, from 10 States across the country are falling vacant. In all, Karnataka sends 12 members to the Rajya Sabha. At present, Congress has five members, BJP has six, and JD(S) has one member in the Upper House from Karnataka.

The elections have been necessiated due to completion of the term of former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda and Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, among others.

As per the election schedule announced, while the last date for filing nominations is June 8, the last date for withdrawal is June 11. The election will be held on June 18. Counting of votes will be taken up on the same day.

Future of Deve Gowda

The election is coming amid the leadership tussle in the Congress between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar.

The other topic of speculation of the future of Janata Dal (Secular) supremo H.D. Deve Gowda. The JD (S), which is an ally of the BJP, does not have the numbers to get a candidate elected on its own. It is to be seen whether the BJP would accommodate the nonagenarian leader in the lone seat that it is capable of winning.

JD(S) sources said there has been no discussion on this issue so far.

There is speculation in the BJP that former Chief Minister D.V. Sadananda Gowda could be its choice, though a final decision is yet to be made.

Balancing communities

In the Congress, which is set to win three seats, Mr. Kharge, who is also Congress president, is likely to keep his seat. Sources said that a Lingayat leader could be nominated for one seat, since there has been no Lingayat representation from the Congress in the Upper House of Parliament for over two decades. Veerashaiva-Lingayats are a land-owning community that has high stakes in the State's politics through their presence in both the Congress and the BJP.

According to sources, the Congress is trying to bring a balance among the caste groups since the Vokkaliga community is already represented through G.C. Chandrashekar. Syed Naseer Hussain represents the Muslim community and Jairam Ramesh the Brahmins.

The other member of the Congress from Karnataka is its national leader Ajay Maken, who is a Delhi-based leader.

"It is likely that the third seat could see a leader from the OBC communities," sources said. "The discussions on the party's nominees had taken a backseat due to elections to five State Assemblies, the results of which were declared on May 4. Now, the contenders in the Congress will begin lobbying," the sources added.

HC reduces driver's term for helping accident victim

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Taking note of the conduct of a driver in taking the injured victim to hospital soon after the accident and not fleeing from the spot, the High Court of Karnataka has reduced his imprisonment to one day from one year while confirming the conviction for causing death of a person by driving a car in rash and negligent manner.

Justice V. Srishananda passed the order while partly allowing the petition filed by Riyaz Ahmed, a resident of Pakshikere in Dakshina Kannada district.

The court said that the conduct of Riyaz in shifting the injured person to hospital serves as a strong mitigating circumstance to reduce the tenure of his imprisonment.

Riyaz, who was driving a car, had knocked down Anand Shetty, a pedestrian, on national highway-66 near Panambur beach road on July 15, 2015. Shetty, who was shifted to a hospital by Riyaz and his son, succumbed to injuries later.

It was argued on behalf of Riyaz that sentence imposed on him was harsh as, being a driver of the car involved in the accident, he did not abandon the victim.

The court, upon perusing the records, noted that Riyaz stopped his vehicle, personally helped in transporting Shetty for medical treatment. The court also noted from the records that subsequently Riyaz himself met with an accident and he is having a rod implant in his right leg and he is now eking out livelihood by doing other small jobs as he could not take up the task of a professional driver now.

On the court's suggestion, the family of the victim did not oppose plea for reducing the sentence provided some additional amount of compensation is paid in addition to the compensation paid through the motor vehicle accident claims tribunal.

Following this, the court sentenced Riyaz till the rise of the court while directing him to pay ₹1 lakh compensation to the wife and son of the victim. However, the court made it clear the if he failed to pay the compensation amount in two instalments of ₹50,000 each by June 30, the imprisonment of one year would automatically be restored.

Private schools object to extension of RTE Act up to class 10 for SC/ST students without amendment

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

While the Karnataka government has issued an order extending free and compulsory education to class 9 and 10 for Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) students under the Right to Education (RTE) Act-2009, private schools have objected to the extension without amending the RTE Act.

The schools have written a letter to the Chief Secretary to the government warning that they will launch a legal battle if they are forced to implement the order without amending the Act.

The Chief Minister announced in the State Budget that SC/ST students who have taken admission under RTE Act-2009 and studied in class 8 in 2025-26 can continue their studies in classes 9 and 10 in the same school. He allocated ₹19 crore and said the Social Welfare Department will bear the educational expenses of such students.

Accordingly, the Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) passed an order for the same.

Furthermore, if the SC/ST students who have taken admission under RTE Act and studied in class 8 have already paid the fee for class 9 in the same school, steps will be taken to refund it.

The Associated Managements of Primary and Secondary Schools in Karnataka has said that the circular raises significant legal and procedural concerns. FILE PHOTO

Also, if for some reason Transfer Certificates (TC) are issued to SC/ST students even though the school currently has classes 9 and 10, the parents who have consented to the student continuing in the same school should be allowed to continue classes 9 and 10 in the same school again.

However, in his letter to the Chief Secretary, Shashikumar D., general secretary of Associated Managements of Primary and Secondary Schools in Karnataka (KAMS), said, "We strongly object the circular of the DSEL. While the intention of ensuring continued schooling is a welcome step, the circular raises significant legal and procedural concerns."

"This is violation of RTE statutory age limit. Section 3 of the RTE Act 2009, limits free and compulsory education to children aged 6 to 14 years. Extending benefits to students beyond this age without legislative amendment is *ultra vires* the Act," he stated.

He said that as per the High Court's direction, they had demanded to declare per-child expenditure annually and reimburse unaided schools based on actual expenditure of more than 50 components.

However, the DSEL has ignored these directives, he said.

"The Department continues to report figures that significantly understate actual costs, manipulating data to reflect only a fraction of true expenditure. The per-child expenditure exceeds five times the figures declared eight years ago. It is violation of RTE rules and judicial orders," he alleged.

"If the government sincerely tries to allow SC/ST students to continue their studies in 9 and 10 class in the same school after passing 8 class under RTE, then take necessary steps to amend the RTE Act accordingly. If not, if provision is made under other Acts, including the Karnataka Education Act, we will also fix a separate per-child expenditure and allow SC/ST students to continue their education as per the government order," he said.

Ashok refuses rent allowance on being denied quarters of his choice

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With the State government yet to allot an official quarters of his preference to R. Ashok, even after raising the issue four times, the Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly has written to the Chief Secretary stating that he had stopped accepting rent allowance as a mark of protest from April 2026.

R. Ashok

Mr. Ashok had sought any one of three locaitons - 1 Kumara Park East, 1 Race View Cottage or 2 Race View Cottage - as his preference for official residence.

In his letter to Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh, he has cited the earlier four letters and urged her to address this as an urgent issue and allot him a designated quarters.

KIADB to develop textile park project

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Large and Medium Industries Minister M.B. Patil on Friday said that the first phase of the proposed PM MITRA Textile Park project in Kalaburagi will be developed through the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB).

The Minister held a meeting with Kalaburagi District In-charge Minister Priyank Kharge and Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh in Bengaluru in this regard.

Infant, under-five mortality rates rose by one point in State in 2024, says SRS data

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

Karnataka recorded a marginal one-point rise in its Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) and Under-Five Mortality Rate (U5MR) in 2024, according to the Sample Registration Survey (SRS) data 2024, released on Thursday by the Office of the Registrar-General of India.

The IMR is defined as infant (less than one year) deaths per thousand live births in a given time period and for a given region.

The latest SRS estimates showed that Karnataka's IMR increased by one point from 14 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2023 to 15 in 2024. The U5MR also increased from 17 to 18 during the same period. However, the State's Neonatal Mortality Rate (NMR) remained unchanged at 11 deaths per 1,000 live births.

Karnataka's IMR has seen a reduction of 20 points since 2011. From 35 in 2011, the State successfully reduced the IMR to 24 in 2016. Although this vital parameter again went up and touched 25 in 2017, it has fallen by two points every year since then, touching 19 in 2020 and 14 in 2023. This is the second time since 2017 that the State's IMR has seen a marginal rise.

Urban-rural disparities

According to the SRS data, Karnataka has also recorded persistent rural-urban disparities, particularly in infant mortality and death rates.

While Karnataka's urban regions showed relatively better health indicators, rural areas continued to report higher mortality levels.

The State's rural infant mortality rate stood at 17, compared with 11 in urban areas.

Health experts have often linked higher rural mortality to unequal access to neonatal care, specialist healthcare facilities, emergency transport systems and maternal health services.

Better than many States

Karnataka performed substantially better than several northern and central Indian States on infant mortality indicators.

States such as Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh recorded infant mortality rates of 35, while Chhattisgarh stood at 36. Assam reported an IMR of 29 and Odisha 28.

Lowest in Kerala

Among southern States, Kerala continued to record the country's best infant mortality figures at eight, although the rate has increased by three points here from five in 2023 to eight in 2024.

Kerala is followed by Tamil Nadu, which has seen a decline from 12 in 2023 to 11 in 2024. Maharashtra and Telangana also recorded a one point decline from 14 in 2023 to 13 in 2024 and 18 in 2023 to 17 in 2024 respectively.

Not a reverse trend

Basavaraj B. Dhabadi, State Deputy Director (Child Health), told *The Hindu* that a marginal increase of one point cannot be considered as a reverse trend. "Such minor variations are common when IMR has already seen a drastic decline over the years," he said.

Pointing out that coordinated efforts by all government departments is a must to ensure improvement in the State's mortality indicators, Dr. Dhabadi said, "We have noted that substantially improving the community and facility based services has helped a lot. However, preterm birth complications, birth asphyxia and low birth weight apart from congenital anomalies are challenges that need to be addressed continuously."

Conspiracy to remove votes of poor through SIR: DKS

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Saturday alleged that a conspiracy was being hatched to remove votes of the poor through the Special Intensive Revision (SIR).

Speaking to reporters here, the Deputy Chief Minister, who is also KPCC president, said that he had warned the party workers to be vigilant.

D.K. Shivakumar

"We are working to create awareness among MLAs and BLAs (Booth Level Agents) about the SIR. Meetings are being called and the dates have already been announced. That is why we have come forward to raise awareness. Everyone needs to submit an application. Otherwise, citizens will lose their votes."

He said such deletions had happened in other States. "If the right to vote is lost, citizens will be deprived of many benefits, including pension and the Gruha Lakshmi scheme. That is why we are working to spread awareness," he added.

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INBRIEF

Libraries must re-emerge as centres of knowledge: VP

Vice-President C.P. Radhakrishnan on Friday said libraries must re-emerge as centres of knowledge and creativity, while expressing concern over the declining reading habits among the youth. A society that stops reading gradually loses its ability to think deeply, the Vice-President said at an event in New Delhi where he released a book, *The Library Man of India-The Story of P.N. Panicker* authored by P.P. Sathyan and published by *Rupa Publications*.

TRS chief Kavitha held over protest on farmers' issues

Telangana Rakshana Sena (TRS) chief Kalvakuntla Kavitha was arrested on Friday during a protest in front of the Secretariat against the State government's handling of the ongoing paddy procurement issues. Leading a large demonstration, along with TRS workers and women supporters, Ms. Kavitha staged a sit-in and symbolically poured paddy on the road to highlight the plight of farmers allegedly suffering due to delayed procurement operations.

Man sent to jail for harassing elderly parents in Hyderabad

A 44-year-old man was sentenced to 60 days' imprisonment by a court in Hyderabad, Telangana, for allegedly harassing and ill-treating his elderly parents, under the Naryanguda police station limits. According to the police, G. Srinivas had allegedly been harassing his aged parents, following which they lodged a complaint. Based on it, the Naryanguda police registered a case under Section 70B of the City Police Act and Section 115(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

Ex-Minister Thiruvanchoor elected as Kerala Speaker

Veteran Congress leader wins 101 votes while A.C. Moideen of the LDF and B.B. Gopakumar of the BJP-led NDA receive 35 and 3 votes respectively; the UDF holds 102 of 140 seats in the House

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Senior Congress leader and former Minister Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan was elected as Speaker of the 16th Kerala Legislative Assembly on Friday.

In the elections held to the Speaker's post, Mr. Radhakrishnan won 101 votes, while A.C. Moideen of the Opposition Left Democratic front (LDF) and B.B. Gopakumar of the Bharatiya Janata Party-led NDA won 35 and 3 votes respectively.

The Congress-led UDF holds 102 of the 140 seats in the House.

Pro Tem Speaker G. Sudhakaran, who had won as UDF-backed Independent in Ambalappuzha, chose not to vote on the grounds that he had supervised the election as Returning Officer.

Mr. Radhakrishnan (centre) with V.D. Satheesan and Pinarayi Vijayan in the Kerala State Assembly on Friday. NIRMAL HARINDRAN

The members cast their votes on ballot papers which were then placed in a box next to the Speaker's chair. The votes were counted in the presence of the representatives of the three fronts.

Mr. Sudhakaran declared Mr. Radhakrishnan as the winner, describing him as a veteran politician who was "simple and accessible to all."

Later, Chief Minister V.D. Satheesan and Leader of the Opposition Pinarayi Vijayan led Mr. Radhakrishnan to the Speaker's chair.

An eight-time MLA and former Minister, Mr. Radhakrishnan succeeds A.N. Shamseer of the CPI(M) as Speaker. At 77, Mr. Radhakrishnan is one of the senior-most members in the current Assembly and has handled around 17 different portfolios during different UDF terms.

Mr. Satheesan described Mr. Radhakrishnan, whose experience as legislator spans three-and-a-half decades, as "a model for the younger members."

Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi's Vanni Arasu, IUML's Shahjahan join Vijay's Cabinet

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay on Friday concluded the formation of his Cabinet with the induction of Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK) MLA Vanni Arasu (Tindivanam) and Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) MLA A.M. Shahjahan (Papanasam).

Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar administered the oath of office and secrecy to the new Ministers at the Lok Bhavan in Chennai, in the presence of Mr. Vijay and his Cabinet colleagues.

A Lok Bhavan release said Mr. Shahjahan would be the Minister for Minorities Welfare. Mr. Vanni Arasu would handle the Adi Dravidar Welfare and Hill Tribes portfolio, and will be known as the Minister for Social Justice.

With the induction of Mr. Vanni Arasu and Mr. Shahjahan, the Cabinet has the sanctioned strength of 35 Ministers in the 234-member House.

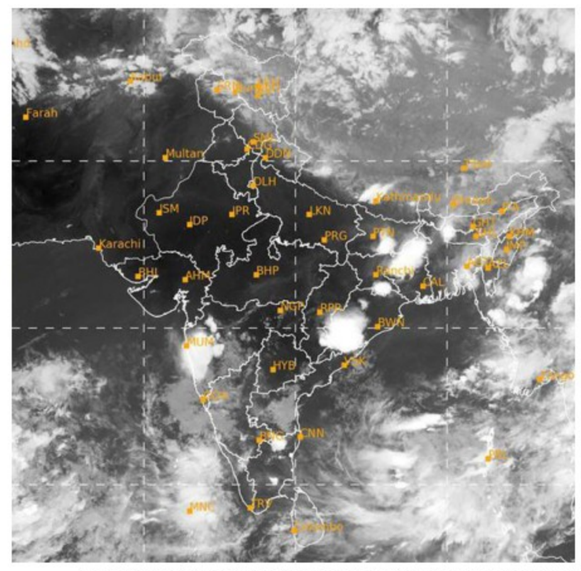
On Thursday, 23 MLAs – 21 from the TVK and two from the Congress – joined the Cabinet, which initially had 10 members.

This is the first time that the VCK and the IUML have been made part of the government. With the induction of Mr. Vanni Arasu, 55, who studied up to Class XII, the number of Scheduled Caste members in the Cabinet has increased to eight. Villupuram district has also got representation in the Cabinet.

Hailing from Thirumangalakudi in Thanjavur district, Mr. Shahjahan, 57, holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Jamal Mohamed College in Tiruchi.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Saturday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala and Lakshadweep. Heat wave conditions likely at isolated places over Rajasthan, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	6	35.0	26.4	Kozhikode	—	32.4	24.6
Ahmedabad	—	43.3	29.0	Kurnool	4	38.0	26.2
Aizawl	4.8	34.0	20.6	Lucknow	—	42.4	28.8
Allahabad	—	46.2	26.4	Madurai	—	39.4	26.7
Bengaluru	58	30.7	19.2	Mangaluru	10	32.2	25.6
Bhopal	—	42.2	27.2	Mumbai	—	34.5	29.0
Bhubaneswar	—	37.7	29.3	Mysuru	—	32.0	22.0
Chandigarh	—	40.6	27.8	New Delhi	—	43.3	29.3
Chennai	—	40.8	29.8	Patna	—	38.2	28.1
Coimbatore	—	34.4	25.6	Port Blair	1	31.5	25.2
Dehradun	—	39.6	25.9	Puducherry	—	38.9	28.5
Gangtok	3	17.8	16.8	Pune	—	39.2	27.5
Goa	—	34.8	27.8	Raipur	—	44.4	31.0
Guwahati	3	34.0	26.2	Ranchi	—	39.2	26.0
Hubballi	—	33.0	23.0	Shillong	—	25.0	17.3
Hyderabad	—	39.0	29.4	Shimla	—	25.0	20.5
Imphal	29.3	32.6	21.7	Srinagar	5	25.5	13.4
Jaipur	—	42.0	30.7	Thiruvananthapuram	15	30.9	25.0
Kochi	13	30.0	24.4	Tiruchi	—	39.7	28.4
Kohima	—	27.0	18.0	Vijayawada	—	42.6	31.0
Kolkata	—	37.2	29.7	Visakhapatnam	—	36.5	30.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.28	.83	32	62	125	
Bengaluru	.11	.45	47	—	108	
Chennai	.18	.10	81	43	56	
Delhi	.20	.79	87	216	127	
Hyderabad	.20	.16	24	74	92	
Kolkata	.9	.32	46	64	69	
Lucknow	.9	.45	47	160	126	
Mumbai	.54	.44	15	48	57	
Pune	.—	.37	84	27	49	
Visakhapatnam	.21	.54	15	71	151	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Singrauli, Madhya Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 315 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Madikeri, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 20

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Seven held after doctor is assaulted in Bidar

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

A doctor working at the Bidar Institute of Medical Sciences (BRIMS) teaching hospital was allegedly assaulted by a group of persons, said to be relatives of a patient, inside the casualty ward early on Friday.

According to an FIR registered at the New Town police station in Bidar, the incident took place around 12.30 a.m. on Friday at the casualty ward of BRIMS hospital.

The New Town Police have arrested all the seven accused named in the FIR within hours.

According to a complaint lodged by Tukaram Machindra, 28, a medical officer at BRIMS hospital, he was attending to a patient, who had reportedly suffered injuries after falling from a motorcycle.

The complaint alleged that a group, comprising Aditya of Tajlapur, Vinod of Chambol village, Govind, Anil and Mahadev of Benaknalli village, Balaji of Tajlapur, Pawan of Chambol village and some others, entered the casualty ward claiming to be relatives of the patient and picked a quarrel with the doctor over the treatment.

The accused allegedly abused the doctor, threatened him with dire consequences if anything happened to the patient.

DEPARTMENT OF MINORITY WELFARE
No.16C, Maulana Azad Bhavan,Miller Tank Bed Area, Vasanthanagara, Bengaluru - 560 052. **Telephone: 080-22535901/918/Helpline:8277799990**

Notification
No: MWD/D/HOSTEL AD/CR-01/2026-27 **Date: 22.05.2026**

Online applications are invited for Pre-metric hostels of Minority Welfare Department

Online Applications are invited for admission into pre-metric boys/girls hostels in the Minority Welfare Department for the year of 2026-27 from the students of Minority Community (Muslim, Christian, Jain, Sikh, Buddha and Parsi) students and belonging to Other Castes (SC, ST & other Backward Caste) of the Karnataka.

- Students are advised to apply online for this link **https://shp.karnataka.gov.in**
- **Last date to apply online for pre-metric hostels is 15.06.2026.**
- Student's family annual income should not exceed **Rs.2.50 Lakhs.**
- For details of taluk-wise student hostels, eligibility for admission & details of documents to be submitted. Visit : **https://dom.karnataka.gov.in**
- In case of technical difficulties while applying online application you can contact through **Email:directorgokdom@gmail.com OR Website:- https://dom.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Director
Directorate of Minorities, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/797/MAA/2026-27

ಸಮಗ್ರ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ
"ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಭವಿಷ್ಯದ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ" 2025–26
ಉಪನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು (ಆಡಳಿತ) ಹಾಗೂ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಯೋಜನಾ ಸಮನ್ವಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಶಾಲಾ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಸಮಗ್ರ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ–ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ.
ssa16chikkaballapur@gmail.com, Phone No : 08156-273395
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಸಶಿಕ/ಕೆ.ಜಿ.ಬಿ.ವಿ/ಸಿ.ಆ.ಪೂ/01/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20.05.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಸಮಗ್ರ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಜಿಬಿವಿ ಟೈಪ್–1 ವಸತಿ ಶಾಲೆಗಳಾದ ಜಿ.ಮದ್ದೇಪಲ್ಲಿ–ಬಾಗೇಪಲ್ಲಿ ತಾ. ಇರಗಂಪಲ್ಲಿ–ಚಿಂತಾಮಣಿ ತಾ. ವಿದುರಾಶ್ವತ್ಥ–ಗೌರಿಬಿದನೂರು ತಾ. ಜೆ.ಪಿ.ನಗರ–ಗುಡಿಬಂಡೆ ತಾ. ಹಾಗೂ ಕೆಜಿಬಿವಿ ಟೈಪ್–4 ವಸತಿ ನಿಲಯಗಳಾದ (ಆರ್.ಎಂ.ಎಸ್.ಎ. ಹೆಣ್ಣು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ವಸತಿ ನಿಲಯ) ಜಿ.ಮದ್ದೇಪಲ್ಲಿ–ಬಾಗೇಪಲ್ಲಿ ತಾ. ದೊಡ್ಡಗಂಜೂರು–ಚಿಂತಾಮಣಿ ತಾ. ವಿದುರಾಶ್ವತ್ಥ–ಗೌರಿಬಿದನೂರು ತಾ. ಜೆ.ಪಿ.ನಗರ–ಗುಡಿಬಂಡೆ ತಾ. ಇಲ್ಲಿ ವ್ಯಾಸಂಗ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಿರುವ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿನಿಯರಿಗೆ ಸಿದ್ಧಪಡಿಸಿದ ಆಹಾರ ಪೂರೈಕೆಗಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಹ ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿಯ/ಕಂಪನಿ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯನ್ನು ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಮಾಡಿ ಆಹಾರ ಪೂರೈಸುವ ಸಂಬಂಧ ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ **http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 05.06.2026 ಸಮಯ: 5:00 ಗಂಟೆ.**

ಸಹಿ/– ಉಪನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು(ಆಡಳಿತ) ಹಾಗೂ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಯೋಜನಾ ಸಮನ್ವಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಸಮಗ್ರ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ–ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ.
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ/ಆರ್.ಓ.ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:69/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026–27

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client intends purchase the property more particularly described in the Schedule hereunder from its present owners **SMT. LAKSHMI DEVI**, who has represented that she has a clear and marketable title to the same having unrestricted rights of alienation over the same. The present owner has represented to my client that the Schedule Property is free from all encumbrances, charges, liens, litigations and/or any third party rights/claims of any nature whatsoever.

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that if any person/s, entity, company, firm, institution (corporate or otherwise) has or claims any right, title, interest, pending litigations, mortgage, charge, lien or demand or any other interest of whatsoever nature in or upon the Schedule Property or any portion thereof has any objections or claims of any nature to the aforesaid transaction should lodge such claim and/or objections in writing to the undersigned together with supporting documents within **Fifteen (15) days** hereof, failing which it will be presumed that no valid claims or objections subsist and my clients would proceed to complete the transaction with the present owners thereof subject to compliance with other statutory and legal formalities. Any Objections received after the expiry of the period mentioned shall be neither be entertained nor be binding on my client.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Municipal No.10, assigned New EPID No. EPID No.5259090507 (Old EPID No.100-157-100) situated at 3rd Main, Kuvempu Road (Old 2nd Cross), Geddalahalli, Near Nanjappa Complex, RMV 2nd Stage, Bangalore Ward No.18 (old Ward No.100), Bangalore measuring East to West 40 feet and North to South 30 feet, totally measuring 1200 sq.ft. together a residential house consisting of ground and first floor totally measuring 850 sq.ft. with RCC Roofing, Red Oxide Flooring, Door and Windows made of Jungle Wood and bounded on the: **East by :** Site No.29, **West by :** 25 feet Road, **North by:** Site No.11, **South by:** Appjappa land.

Sd/- VIJAY.K
VIJAY.K AND ASSOCIATES,
ADVOCATES AND SOLICTORS
Ground Floor, No.8 (Old No.83), 8th Cross, 1st Main Road, Lower Palace Orchards, Bangalore-03
Mob: 9980018455
E-mail: vijaykupur@yahoo.com
Bangalore, Date :21/05/2026

भारतीय खाद्य निगम **FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA**
REGIONAL OFFICE : No. 10, EAST END MAIN ROAD, 4th 'T' BLOCK, JAYANAGAR, BENGALURU - 560041

No. RO KA-32.0011.0/4/2026-CON-RO KA
Date: 21.05.2026

ई–निविदा सूचना / e-Tender Notice

जेम पोर्टल के माध्यम से "दो बोली प्रणाली" के तहत, दो वर्षों के लिए नियमित 1) एफएसडी बेलगावी और आरएच/जीएस सांब्रे में एचटीसी और 2) एफएसडी उन्कल और आरएच/जीएस नवलूर में एचटीसी, के लिए ऑनलाइन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदाएं **12.06.2026 को दोपहर 2.00 बजे तक** ऑनलाइन जमा की जानी है।

एनआईटी और निविदा प्रपत्र **"www.fci.gov.in"** और "**https://gem.gov.in**" पर उपलब्ध हैं। पंजीकरण, प्रशिक्षण और बोलियों को ऑनलाइन प्रस्तुत करने के लिए, निविदाकारों को "**https://gem.gov.in**" पर देखने का अनुरोध किया जाता है।

Online Tenders for 1) HTC at FSD Belagavi & RH/GS Sambre and 2) HTC at FSD Unkal & RH/GS Navalur for two years is invited under "Two Bid System" through GeM portal. Bid should be submitted online within **2.00 PM on 12.06.2026.**

NIT and tender forms are available in **"www.fci.gov.in"** & **"https://gem.gov.in"**. For registration, training and submitting bids online, tenderers are requested to visit **https://gem.gov.in.**

महाप्रबंधक (कर्नाटक)
GENERAL MANAGER (Karnataka)

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
CIN No: U85110KA1970SGC001919

ABSTRACT TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP portal only) **(Two Cover System)**

Bids in two covers are invited through "e" Procurement Portal **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** from reputed companies/ agencies with proven track record of successful completion of similar work for the following works.

RAICHUR THERMAL POWER STATION

1) No.: KPCL/2026-27/PS/WORK_INDENT4177 Dtd: 21.05.2026: "AMC of INGERSOLL RAND Screw compressor of Bulker Silos Unit 3 to 6 and Unit-2, Model ML-45 and 15T for Unit-1 & 2 and Unit-3 to 6 Bulker Silo Area." Last Date & Time for submission of tenders: **06.06.2026 upto 16:00 Hrs.** Further details can be had from office of the **Executive Engineer (AHP-1),** RTPS, KPCL, Shakthinagar-584170, Raichur Dist. Mobile : 9449596544.

2) No.:KPCL/2026-27/EL/WORK_INDENT4178 Dtd: 19.05.2026: "Routine/Breakdown/Preventive and Emergency Maintenance works of 6.6kV HT switchgear and HT motors and 11kV Colony and other outline switchgears and accessories of U-5 to 8 for a period of one year at RTPS." EMD : **Rs. 84642/-** Last Date & Time for submission of tenders: **09.06.2026 upto 16:00 Hrs.** Further details can be had from office of the **Executive Engineer(HT-2)**, RTPS, KPCL, Shakthinagar-584170, Raichur Dist. Mobile : 9449596528, email : eeht2rtps@gmail.com

BELLARY THERMAL POWER STATION

3) No.:KPCL/2026-27/IND2621: "Procurement of Mechanical seal of Screw pump." **4) No.:KPCL/2026-27/IND2622:** "Providing of Filter Element for HP 1103 Bowl mills." Last Date for submission of tenders (Sl. No. 3 &4): **04.06.2026. 5) No.: KPCL/ 2026-27/IND2564:** "Procurement of Lube oil Pump." Last Date for submission of tenders:**10.06.2026.** Further details can be had from office of the **Executive Engineer(Purchase)BT,** BTPS, KPCL, Kudathini, Bellary Dist. Mobile: 9480830377, email : eepurchasebtps@gmail.com

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A government of Karnataka Enterprises)
Office of the Executive Engineer, Karnataka Neeravari Nigam Limited, No.4 BRLBC Division, Bhadravathi.
No:EE/ KNNL/ No.4/BDVT/ TA/ PB-1/ TFS/ 4th Call Tender Notification No.17/2025-26 Date: 20.05.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION - Call-4
(THROUGH KPP PORTAL ONLY)

Ref: 1) No:EE/ KNNL/ No.4/ BDVT/ TA/ PB-1/ TFS/ Tender Notification No.17/2025-26 Date: 01.01.2026

2) No:EE/ KNNL/ No.4/ BDVT/ TA/ PB-1/ TFS/ 2nd Call Tender Notification No. 17/2025-26 Date: 12.03.2026

3)No:EE/KNNL/ No.4/ BDVT/ TA/ PB-1/ TFS/ 3rd Call Tender Notification No.17/2025-26 Date: 15.04.2026

Percentage Tenders by KPP portal in the prescribed form is invited by the undersigned on behalf of Managing Director, KNNL, Bangalore from the eligible Contractor under the Head of Account TFS. The No. of work is 01. The approximate cost of amount put to tender is Rs.36.52 Crores. The amount of EMD is Rs.0.36 Crores (by kpp portal) contractors can access and submission of completed e-tendering documents from 22.05.2026 to 08.06.2026 upto 17.30 hours in the website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Pre-Qualification Bid will be opened on 09.06.2026 at 17.30 hours and further Technical Bid will be opened on 10.06.2026 at 17.30 hours and Financial Bid will be opened on after obtaining approval of technical bid from competent authority. Pre-Bid Meeting on Dtd 03.06.2026 at 11.00 Hrs at O/o Executive Engineer, No.4 BRLBC Division, Bhadravathi. Stipulated period for the completion of work is 18 Months (Including monsoon).

For more conditions and details visit website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. OR at undersigned in all working days during office hours on telephone No. 8660573513.

Sd/-Executive Engineer, KNNL,No.4BRLBC Division, Bhadravathi.
DIPR/smg/ksmca/26-27/93/05/272

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Chamarajpet Division, 2nd Main, T.R. Mill Road, Chamarajpet, Bengaluru-560018.

No: EE/CRP/KPPP/TEND/06/2026-27 **Date: 21-05-2026**

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) - (SHORT TERM)
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal Only)

The Executive Engineer, Chamarajpet Division, BCCC, Bengaluru, invites Tenders from eligible Contractors registered in GBA / KPWD / CPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the Works detailed below. **(Standard Tender Document - KW-4)**

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Providing Development Works at Bakshi Garden and Surrounding Area in Ward No. 139, GBA, Chamarajpet Assembly Constituency. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 150.00, EMD Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 2.25 (Rs. 1.00 Lakh Online Plus Remaining Balance BG/FDR)**
2	Providing Development Works at Velumurugapuram and Surrounding Area in Ward No. 139, GBA, Chamarajpet Assembly Constituency. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 150.00, EMD Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 2.25 (Rs. 1.00 Lakh Online Plus Remaining Balance BG/FDR)**

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 26-05-2026. 2)** Pre Bid Meeting will be held on **29-05-2026 at 11.00 AM. in the Office of the Chief Engineer (Central, Zone-2), Annex-3, GBA Head Office, Bengaluru - 560001. 3)** Tenders must be Submitted Online through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **on or before 4.00 PM on 04-06-2026. 4)** Technical Bids will be Opened on the Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in at the Office of the Executive Engineer, Chamarajpet Division on 05-06-2026 at 11.30 AM.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer, Chamarajpet Division, BCCC.

Home and abroad

The Modi Europe visit may pave the way for collaboration on energy security

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's tour to the UAE and Europe – the Netherlands, Sweden, Norway and Italy – had a multi-pronged agenda. Much of the visit had been planned last year, including the India-Nordic Summit that had to be cancelled after the 2025 Pahalgam attack and conflict. It came amid a new push for India-Europe ties that have been forged at a time of growing concern over superpower behaviour – from Russia's attacks on Ukraine and the U.S.-Israel conflict with Iran to China's coercive economic measures – all of which challenge the international rules-based order. The India-EFTA trade agreement, which came into force last year, and the India-EU FTA, to be ratified/signed later this year, reflect a shared desire to diversify supply chains and markets, particularly with Nordic countries, where bilateral trade with India remains below $20 billion. Finally, the visit came days after Mr. Modi's new "austerity" push for foreign currency and energy conservation. Discussions in the UAE on long-term Strategic Petroleum Reserves, and in Europe and at the Nordic-India Summit on the "Green Strategic Partnerships", were aimed to advance collaboration on energy security. Each of Mr. Modi's stops included robust conversations on the Ukraine and Iran conflicts, bilateral and multilateral talks. There was also a focus on AI governance and critical mineral initiatives. The Nordic countries focused on maritime cooperation and scientific collaboration in the Arctic, which has been hit by climate change. While the visits yielded few concrete outcomes or actual trade deals, the bonhomie and awards conferred on Mr. Modi, indicated expectations of deeper India-Europe collaboration. The engagement will be strengthened as he travels in June for the G-7 outreach summit in France and a bilateral visit to Slovakia, and later this year for the India-EU FTA signing in Brussels.

The picture of common aims and shared values cracked somewhat, however, over controversies in the Netherlands and Norway, where journalists questioned their leaders and Mr. Modi for not addressing any press conferences during the visit. While press meets are the norm across Europe, Mr. Modi has mostly stopped taking questions during his foreign tours, and has not held a press conference in India since 2014. Such press engagements are the prerogative of a leader, and may not evince a response in some countries, but the refusal to take questions clearly stood out in the countries Mr. Modi travelled to. Addressing the press after the India-Nordic Summit in Oslo, Mr. Modi said that their "shared commitment to democracy, the rule of law, and multilateralism" made them "natural partners". That commitment, particularly to transparency and accountability that comes with any democracy, must be manifest internally first, and not because of any objections raised abroad.

Alarm bells

The Index of Eight Core Industries underscores economic distress

India's economy seems to have begun the financial year 2026-27 on a decidedly tepid note, going by the data released so far for April 2026. The latest of these, the Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI), shows that growth in these key sectors stood at a modest 1.7% in April. It would be easy to attribute this to the ongoing crisis in West Asia, and that is certainly a factor, but the slowdown started well before the war broke out. Growth in the ICI averaged just 2.8% in the entire financial year 2025-26, down from the 4.5% average for 2024-25 and significantly slower than the growth in the previous three years, each of which was above 7%. This suggests a more systemic domestic issue rather than an externally driven transient phase. Of the eight sectors, only three – steel, cement, and electricity – grew at all in April 2026. The rest contracted. The crude oil and natural gas sectors have, in fact, contracted for 16 and 22 consecutive months, respectively. This should be of particular concern. Energy output cannot be ramped up overnight, but falling output for such long stretches should have raised some policy alarm bells even before the current energy crisis began. Separate data from the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas show that domestic consumption of natural gas fell in April. Had India installed long-term gas storage facilities, as it should have, this fall in consumption would have provided a window to fill those reserves. Since such reserves do not exist, LNG imports in April were cut by 30%, likely in a bid to slow the forex outflow. The volume of both oil imports and domestic production fell in April.

This lower fuel consumption could be a result of government curbs on commercial usage. Nevertheless, the implications for growth are severe and are likely to play out over the next few months. Fertilizer output contracted in April after a brief return to growth in March. The only mitigating factor for lower fertilizer output is that demand is likely to be lower this year as farmers grapple with a below-normal monsoon and above-normal El Niño. This is, however, far from comforting. The resultant dip in output and rural demand is a grave prospect for the Indian economy. Steel and cement are the only sectors to have grown consistently, indicating sustained construction activity likely propelled by government expenditure. It remains to be seen how long this push can last amid the fiscal strain brought on by the current crisis. It is also not just the core sector data that is concerning. PMI data is close to four-year lows and GST collections from domestic sales are growing only slightly faster than inflation. The alarm bells are now difficult to ignore.

Interpreting the 'rise' of the Cockroach Janta Party

Soumyajit Bhar

Senior Assistant Professor at the School of Liberal Studies, BML Munjal University

In just four days, a formation in India calling itself the 'Cockroach Janta Party' has accumulated a following that established political organisations often spend years building. Meme pages, Instagram reels, and semi-ironic political formations began aggregating at remarkable speed, prompting comparisons with Bangladesh and Nepal, where youth-led mobilisations appeared capable of unsettling entrenched political arrangements through digitally synchronised anger. Increasingly, many are wondering whether this is the future of politics itself: reactive and emotionally charged, and organised less around long-term political structures than around symbolic enemies and collective outrage.

The excitement is understandable because younger people increasingly feel disconnected from institutional politics and representative structures that appear distant from their lived anxieties about work, aspiration, insecurity, and exhaustion. Social media allows individuals who otherwise experience themselves as politically isolated to suddenly participate in moments of collective emotional intensity. A meme or slogan can create the feeling of political participation within hours. Yet, the deeper question is whether politics organised primarily through synchronised outrage can sustain itself beyond moments of emotional intensity.

The erosion of collective social life

The real crisis is not simply institutional decline or ideological exhaustion. The deeper crisis concerns the erosion of collective social life itself. Public life has weakened, and many shared spaces through which people once experienced collective belonging have steadily deteriorated. In the past, political formations emerged through unions, campuses, neighbourhood associations, and everyday cultures of participation embedded within ordinary social life. Those structures created continuity and emotional investment that allowed political life to exist beyond immediate reaction. Increasingly, however, societies produce individualised subjects who remain emotionally hungry for collective belonging while lacking the social conditions that are necessary to sustain it.

Perhaps this reflects one of the deeper contradictions of modernity itself. The language of liberty that emerged after the French Revolution was historically tied to emancipation and collective self-rule. Yet, over time, especially within consumer societies shaped by fossil-fuel-driven development, freedom increasingly came to mean individualised freedom of choice: the freedom to consume, compete, and privately pursue aspiration. Public life gradually weakened as private life expanded.

Digital political mobilisation also reflects fragmentation beneath contemporary public and social life

Under such conditions, digitally synchronised crowds become psychologically powerful because they temporarily relieve isolation. A common enemy allows fragmented individuals to feel collectively present again.

This is where the distinction between synchronisation and solidarity becomes important. Contemporary platforms are extraordinarily effective at producing synchronisation. Millions can feel emotionally aligned within hours through shared outrage or a symbolic target. However, emotional synchronisation is not the same as durable collective life. One produces intensity; the other requires continuity, memory, emotional investment, and long-term commitment. Contemporary politics increasingly forms around antagonism rather than shared futures because outrage circulates faster than organisation, and anger is easier to sustain digitally than commitment.

Cross-country comparisons require caution

This is why comparisons with Bangladesh and Nepal require caution. The underlying conditions do not appear fundamentally different. In both cases, initial reactive energy eventually moved toward more organised political formations. The decentralised swarm did not remain decentralised; it was redirected, institutionalised, or exhausted. That suggests the deeper issue may not concern student politics or youth mobilisation in one country versus another. The broader structural tendencies – individualisation, fragmented public life, and weakening collective institutions – increasingly appear shared across much of the contemporary world.

This is where reflections emerging from the recent Iran-Israel-United States tensions become relevant. Decentralised resilience is only possible when sustained by deeper emotional and material structures capable of surviving beyond moments of immediate confrontation. Distributed action cannot function indefinitely through outrage alone. For decentralised systems to remain coherent without centralised command at every stage, there must exist some larger shared horizon: collective ethical commitment, emotional continuity, historical memory, or durable symbolic attachment. Decentralisation is not merely organisational or technological; it is also emotional, cultural, and material.

What increasingly appears visible in contemporary digital politics is the coexistence of enormous emotional energy with weakening structures of collective endurance. This is where Jacques Lacan's famous intervention during the May 1968 French student uprisings becomes relevant. At a moment when many intellectuals imagined the protests as radically emancipatory, Lacan responded with an unsettling observation: "What you aspire to as revolutionaries is a master. You will get one." His point was not merely cynical. Revolt against one symbolic order does not automatically abolish mastery. More often, desire reorganises itself around new forms of certainty and authority.

This insight becomes important in societies shaped by individualised aspiration and emotional fragmentation because politics organised primarily through opposition derives much of its coherence from the enemy itself. The enemy stabilises identity and keeps the crowd emotionally synchronised. But once movements move toward governance, contradictions emerge, compromises become necessary, and symbolic clarity weakens. The crowd that formed around shared antagonism then discovers that sustaining a collective world is far more difficult than synchronising anger.

There is also a deeper material contradiction. Developmental systems shaped by fossil-fuel-driven modernisation not only intensify individualisation but also structurally reproduce centralisation. Energy systems, logistics networks, financial architectures, digital platforms, and megacities all operate through immense concentrations of coordination and power. Even the platforms through which decentralised political energies circulate are themselves among the most centralised technological systems in history.

The central point

This creates a contradiction at the heart of contemporary anti-establishment politics. People increasingly desire decentralisation emotionally while inhabiting systems structurally dependent on centralisation. The crowd can challenge power, but reorganising power requires engagement with material systems that push relentlessly toward concentration, scale, and control. Unless societies can begin rebuilding the emotional, institutional, and material foundations necessary for collective life – trust, shared responsibility, organisational memory, and durable public commitment – reactive synchronisation will continue to reproduce cycles of outrage without durable transformation.

The central question is not whether decentralised political energy can emerge. It clearly can. The real question is whether contemporary societies still possess the capacity to transform synchronisation into solidarity, and moments of reactive mobilisation into enduring collective forms, or whether every rupture will eventually reproduce new concentrations of power and, as Lacan warned, new masters.

Cyber warfare is outpacing global legal accountability

Jyoti Singh

Advocate based in Delhi, researching cyber warfare and the use of force under international law

Recent tensions involving the United States, Israel and Iran highlight a clear shift in how force is exercised today. According to reporting and policy analyses, the recent strikes were accompanied not only by conventional military action but also by cyber operations, which has included the hacking of news websites and widely used applications to disrupt communication and influence the information environment. The use of cyber means is not an isolated development, but is part of a broader pattern in which digital disruption operates alongside traditional military force. Cyber operations are increasingly being used to support conventional military action, including by disrupting communication and defence systems ahead of physical strikes.

Recent cyber incidents during the conflict have been linked to groups such as the Handala Hack Team, which has claimed responsibility for attacks on entities including a U.S.-based medical technology company. While such activity shows how cyber operations can extend conflict well beyond physical battlefields, it remains unclear how the law responds to this shift.

Establishing threshold is difficult

In reality, international law does not lack relevant principles. The prohibition on the use of force under Article 2(4) of the United Nations Charter, along with the framework of state responsibility, applies to cyberspace in principle. When cyber operations affect infrastructure or essential services, serious legal issues may arise. Determining when such conduct crosses the threshold and becomes sufficiently serious to be classified as an internationally wrongful act or a prohibited use of force is the most complicated part. Such actions could lead to state responsibility and even claims for compensation, in theory. In practice, however, establishing this threshold remains extremely difficult.

Cyber conflict is challenging traditional principles governing force and state responsibility

This gap between what the law allows and what actually happens has become increasingly visible. As noted in recent analyses, including those by Just Security, victims of cyber operations rarely succeed in bringing cases before courts or obtaining remedies through legal processes. The problem, therefore, is not simply whether the law applies, but whether it can actually be used.

A major reason for this gap lies in attribution. To establish a breach of international law, the act must be attributed to a state. However, cyber operations are, by their nature, secretive and routed through multiple networks and jurisdictions. Even when governments are reasonably certain about who is responsible for the operation, it is much harder to translate that into legally admissible evidence. This creates a gap between political certainty and legal proof.

Concerns that hinder litigation

The unavailability of an appropriate forum for such disputes is also a practical constraint. Sensitive cyber disputes are unlikely to be heard by international courts, including the International Court of Justice, without the consent of states. Domestic courts also face similar challenges, particularly because foreign states are often protected by sovereign immunity. As a result, there are very few forums where cyber-related claims can be effectively heard. There is also a strategic reason why states may avoid legal processes. Bringing a case might escalate inter-state tensions or invite retaliation and may require the disclosure of sensitive intelligence or capabilities. For this reason, many cyber incidents are handled politically or diplomatically, rather than through courts.

Another challenge is evidence. Cyber incidents involve technical data, classified intelligence and complex chains of causation. It can therefore be extremely difficult in a court setting to show who carried out an operation, how much damage it caused, and how it led to specific harm. This makes legal action both complicated and uncertain. International awareness of this matter is reflected in instruments such as the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime and the United Nations Convention against Cybercrime, which aim to create a broader global framework to address incidents of cybercrime. However, these initiatives primarily focus on cybercrime and law enforcement. They fall short in addressing issues of state responsibility when cyber operations are part of geopolitical conflict.

The result is a growing mismatch. Incidents of cyber operations are becoming more frequent and, in some cases, more damaging. Yet, they rarely lead to legal consequences. This does not imply that international law is no longer relevant, but it does suggest that applying existing legal frameworks to this type of conflict remains a significant challenge.

India must help shape cyber norms

This is a particularly significant issue for a country such as India. In recent times, India has become increasingly reliant on digital infrastructure across sectors such as finance, energy and governance. As a result, it faces both greater vulnerability and has a larger stake in shaping international regulations. Strengthening domestic cyber resilience is important, but it is also essential to engage actively in international discussions on accountability, attribution and responsible behaviour in cyberspace.

The challenge, therefore, is not only to recognise that cyber operations have become part of modern conflict but also to ensure that the law is able to respond in a meaningful way. If cyber operations continue to expand without credible pathways to accountability, the gap between law and reality will only widen, leaving a form of conflict that causes real harm, yet remains largely beyond the reach of the law.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Caste and Census

If the Socio-Economic and Caste Census of 2011 generated over 46 lakh caste entries and reportedly contained around eight crore data errors, one can only wonder what the outcome of the Census 2027 exercise will be. Once again, we risk reinforcing the irrational and inhuman practice of classifying people according to caste identities labels arising solely from the accident of birth which divide them into superior and inferior categories. The new Census should provide an option for those who wish to identify themselves outside the caste framework and choose a "casteless identity". At the swearing-in ceremony of the newly elected Kerala Legislative Assembly, on May 21, more than one-third of the members chose not to disclose caste or religious affiliations, signalling that they place themselves above such loyalties. When Sree Narayana Guru raised the clarion call, "One caste, one religion, one God for humankind", he was articulating a vision of a casteless social order. The Census 2027 should recognise this aspiration by providing citizens with the option of a casteless identity.

M.A. Oommen,
Thiruvananthapuram

Ebola and support to Africa

The decision to postpone the India-Africa Delhi Summit due to the Ebola crisis is understandable. At the same time, India should continue supporting African nations through medical aid, awareness programmes, and financial assistance. Cooperation between nations is essential to fight such health emergencies effectively.

Nagarajamani M.V.,
Hyderabad

Showing the way

One must extend appreciation to the people of Tamil Nadu for their secular outlook and commitment to democratic values that have consistently set a high standard in India's political landscape. The duopoly of the Dravidian parties, which lasted for decades, seemed unshakable given their vast infrastructure and power. Yet, the electorate has demonstrated that change is possible when people act with conviction and clarity. This achievement is comparable to political milestones in Britain and the U.S., where leaders such as Rishi Sunak and Kamala Harris came to represent diverse societies. Tamil Nadu's example shows that Indian democracy is vibrant and resilient. Its electorate has demonstrated that political awareness and courage can overcome entrenched systems.

A. Mariafrancis,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

Hindu devotees at the Bhojshala-Kamal Maula complex that was recently declared a temple dedicated to goddess Vagdevi (Saraswati) by the Madhya Pradesh High Court. A.M. FARUQUI

Saffron clashes with green, again

On May 15, a Division Bench of the Madhya Pradesh High Court declared the disputed Bhojshala-Kamal Maula complex in Dhar a temple dedicated to goddess Saraswati, based on a survey by the ASI. While Hindus are celebrating the unrestricted access they have been given to the historical monument, Muslims allege that the survey and verdict were predetermined. **Mehul Malpani** reports from the sensitive town

Shanno Bai sits outside her kutcha house in Urdya Baida village, about 35 kilometres from Dhar town in Madhya Pradesh. One of her eight children works in the fields, while her grandchildren play nearby.

An unpaved road leading to her house has a small statue. It is of Shanno's husband, Van Singh Araadi, who died in 2003 in police firing during communal clashes in Dhar district.

Recalling the events of that time, the family says that while there had been a clarion call from a local Hindu mystic to join a protest rally in neighbouring Amjhera town, Van Singh had only gone there to get his wheat ground.

"My father had gone to get atta from wheat," says Shanno's eldest son, Vikram. "There was a rally which ran into clashes with the police as a curfew was in place in Amjhera. My father got caught in between. After sometime, a neighbour who was also in town came and told us that he had been shot." Vikram adds that the family had nothing to do with the communal dispute.

Van Singh and two others were declared martyrs by local Hindu groups. Their pictures have been displayed at the Bhojshala complex, an Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)-protected monument and the centre of communal tensions in Dhar for generations. Hindus believe the site to be a historical temple from the 11th century dedicated to goddess Vagdevi (Saraswati), while Muslims say it is the Kamal Maula mosque from the early 1300s.

With the Madhya Pradesh High Court recently declaring the disputed site to be a Hindu temple, there are celebrations in the Hindu community. Shanno's household and village, however, are focused on making ends meet.

Shanno says that some local leaders came to offer condolences after Van Singh's death, but nobody has checked on the family for 23 years.

"Two people came on Thursday [May 21] to invite us for a procession at the temple. We don't have much to do with the whole thing but since they asked, we might go," says Vikram.

What the court ruled

Hindus believe the site to be a Saraswati temple and a learning centre with the name of Saraswati Kanthabharana, established by King Bhoja of the Parmar dynasty in 1034 CE. On the other hand, Muslims believe the site to be a mosque built between 1304 CE and 1331 CE by Maulana Kamaluddin Chishti, a Sufi saint during Alauddin Khilji's rule at the Delhi Sultanate, who arrived in Dhar around 1292 CE.

Tensions at the disputed site escalated in the 1990s as competing claims by the two communities intensified. This prompted then Dhar Collector V.R. Subramaniam to issue a restraining order in 1997, allowing entry into the complex only to Hindus on Basant Panchami and to Muslims on Fridays for namaz. The order became the basis for the 2003 ASI order, which additionally allowed Hindus to enter on Tuesdays. The ASI also opened the site for general visitors barring Tuesdays and Fridays. However, tensions again flared on various occasions, especially when Basant Panchami fell on Fridays in 2006, 2013, and 2016, prompting the authorities to further intervene with specific schedules for such occasions.

> The Bhojshala was damaged many times. And every time new structures like tombs, *dargahs*, and graves were added to the complex as well as in its premises
>
> **ASHISH GOYAL**
> State vice-president of the Hindu Front for Justice

On May 15, after hearing six writ petitions, a Division Bench of the Madhya Pradesh High Court in Indore delivered its judgment declaring the complex as a temple dedicated to goddess Vagdevi (Saraswati). The court also said that it was a Bhojshala, or a centre for Sanskrit learning.

The High Court quashed the April 7, 2003 order issued by the ASI stipulating that the Muslim community continue to offer Friday afternoon namaz at the site and Hindus conduct ceremonies on Basant Panchami and to visit every Tuesday with "a flower or two and a few granules of rice". The court also gave the ASI complete control over the preservation and conservation of the site, and regulation of religious access to it.

The court also said that the Muslim community could approach the State government for an alternative piece of land to build a mosque within Dhar district, and that the authorities may consider such an application. However, representatives of the community have turned down the recommendation and filed a special leave petition in the Supreme Court to challenge the High Court judgment.

On May 16, the ASI issued an order saying that the Hindu community "shall have an unrestricted access to the Bhojshala complex in connection with the ancient practice of learning and the worship of Goddess Saraswati".

The first Friday after the judgment

It is the first Friday since the May 15 verdict and Dhar town has been turned into a fortress. The markets are shut and security personnel patrol the lanes on foot and horseback. Anti-riot vehicles have been deployed across the town and bomb-detecting squads and sniffer dogs work in and around the site.

The Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Police, Indore (Rural), Manoj Kumar Singh, says more than 1,800 personnel from the Rapid Action Force, Quick Response Force, Special Armed Force, and the local police have been deployed in and around Dhar.

The complex is heavily guarded with barricades and watch towers. Several Hindu devotees arrive at the complex for the morning *aarti*. Two *dargahs* adjacent to the complex have been obscured from public view after a barricaded corridor was erected along the path to Bhojshala, with sections near the *dargahs* and the graveyard covered by large white sheets. This marks the first Friday in decades that Muslims do not offer namaz at the site.

Shanno Bai, who lost her husband Van Singh Araadi in police firing during the 2003 communal clashes, with her son, Vikram (on the left), in Urdya Baida village. A.M. FARUQUI

Until Thursday evening, some community leaders, including Abdul Samad, president of the Maulana Kamaluddin Welfare Society, which represented the community in the High Court, had said they planned to offer namaz at the site as they had for decades, arguing that the court order had "not restricted" them from doing so. In response, members of the Bhojshala Mukti Yajna, a local outfit, announced a maha aarti ceremony in the afternoon. The timings of both the events clashed, raising concerns among the authorities.

Senior officials of the district administration and police held meetings with both sides ahead of Friday, while Muslim leaders also held discussions with their lawyers. By Thursday night, both sides cancelled their plans, with Samad asking the Muslims to offer prayers at their homes or local mosques. Hindus have been holding their regular morning and evening *aartis* since the High Court's verdict.

The ASI survey and objections

The High Court verdict relied largely on a 2,183-page report of a survey conducted in and around the complex by the ASI between March 22 and July 15, 2024, on the directions of the High Court.

The ASI said it followed various scientific and archaeological methods and its investigations indicated three distinct architectural phases at the site. It identified the existing structure as the third phase, built over an earlier structure that was damaged and later modified for reuse.

Among other findings, the ASI survey also said that the remains of the earliest structures constructed at the site still exist in-situ and are covered under the thick and heavy slabs of basalt used during the construction of the platform. "Based on the artefacts found during the investigations, these brick structures can be dated to the Paramara period, i.e. 10th-11th century CE," the survey said.

The ASI also found 1,610 artefacts or remains of artefacts at the site, recovered from various locations, including walls and underground. The artefacts include 94 sculptures and sculptural fragments, coins of silver, copper, aluminium, and steel. These span multiple periods, including the Indo-Sassanian (10th-11th century), Delhi Sultanate (13th-14th century), Malwa Sultanate (15th-16th century), Mughal (16th-18th century), Dhar princely state (19th century), British era (19th-20th century), and independent India.

"Sculptures of four-armed deities were carved on windows, pillars, and beam used in the existing structure. Images carved on these included [Hindu deities] Ganesh, Brahma with his consorts, Nrasimha, Bhairava, gods and goddesses, human and animal figures," the report said, adding that various carvings also included images of animals and birds as well as mythical figures. "As human and animal figures are not permitted in mosques at many places, such images have been chiselled out or defaced," it added.

The ASI also said that the mihrab (a semicircular niche built into the wall of a mosque) "is a new construction and therefore it is beautifully decorated. It is made of different material than the entire structure."

The ASI report also mentioned several Sanskrit and Prakrit inscriptions on damaged and reused stone slabs in the floor and walls, with the written surfaces altered through chiselling. It also recorded 56 inscriptions in Persian and Arabic.

The Muslim petitioners and lawyers, however, allege several irregularities in the survey exercise and report. They say that the court verdict was "solely based on the ASI report", which in turn they say did not mention carbon dating to determine the age of artefacts that were recovered. They also said that their arguments were "not heard properly" in court.

Samad, who accompanied the survey team as a Muslim representative, alleges that while various items recovered during the excavations were "not disclosed" in the report, some items were also "planted" over the years.

> We were not given a chance to cross-examine the ASI experts on the findings. We kept making our objections, but they were not properly addressed.
>
> **ZULFIKAR PATHAN**
> President of the Kamal Maula Mosque Intezamia Committee

"An idol of Buddha was found during the digging of the complex but the report does not mention it anywhere as it complicates the results," he claims. "A skeleton, largely intact, was recovered from the backyard. It hints at the presence of a graveyard, but it was excluded from the report."

He also alleges, "There is a room that was in the possession of the Muslim community and that was used to store mats and other items for namaz. The ASI took over its control in 1997 and used it as a CCTV surveillance and storage room. When that room was opened during the survey, its floor was already broken. During the excavation, many artefacts, including an idol, were recovered from there. If they were ancient they should have had thick layers of soil, but they appeared fresh."

Samad also alleges that liquor bottles, disposable cups, wrappers of tobacco and plastic waste were found during the digging. "Were any of these things used 700-800 years ago," he asks.

Senior advocate Salman Khurshid, who led the Muslim side's arguments towards the later stages of the case, argued in court that such materials cast "serious doubt on the authenticity of the alleged recoveries". He said that certain artefacts appeared to have been "implanted".

The court said that the ASI had explained that such materials were found only in the uppermost heterogeneous debris layers, which already consisted of conservation debris, ceramic pieces, wrappers, and assorted waste.

During regular hearings in April, the Muslim side demanded videographic and colour photographic records of the survey proceedings and approached the Supreme Court for access. The Supreme Court directed the Madhya Pradesh High Court to consider all objections raised by the Muslim side. Following this, the High Court instructed the ASI to share the videography with all the parties involved in the case.

Samad alleges that only video clips of 45 seconds to a few minutes from each day were shared with them despite the survey being conducted for at least 10 hours per day.

Two streams of history

Zulfikar Pathan, president of the Kamal Maula Mosque Intezamia Committee, which was responsible for namaz arrangements at the site, alleges that the survey results and the court verdict are "predetermined" and that the findings were "conveniently presented to reach the desired outcome". He says, "This is what we are challenging in the Supreme Court. We were not given a chance to cross-examine the ASI experts on the findings. We kept making our objections, but they were not properly addressed."

He adds, "We had records that show that this site has been a mosque for about 800 years, but none of them were considered."

Ashish Goyal, State vice-president of the Hindu Front for Justice, which was the primary petitioner from the Hindu side, says the site was damaged several times in attacks by Muslim invaders, including for the first time by Alauddin Khilji in 1305 CE and later by Mahmood Shah Khilji in 1514 CE. "The Bhojshala was damaged many times. And every time new structures like tombs, *dargahs*, and graves were added to the complex as well as in its premises," he says.

Goyal claims that the offering of namaz in modern history only started in 1935 after the Muslim community sought a place from the then Diwan of the Dhar state, K. Nadkar.

An *ailaan* (official proclamation) issued by Nadkar on August 24, 1935, seen by *The Hindu*, reads that the "starting term of Bhojshala must not confuse anyone that this protected royal structure will be converted into any other form. The way namaz is offered now, there shall be no restriction upon that in future. Thus, the mosque shall remain a mosque".

The *ailaan*, which was among the most prominent tools of the Muslim argument, was not considered by the High Court while questioning its legality as it was issued before the enforcement of the Government of India Act, 1935, in 1937.

Precedent for future

Hindu petitioners say that the inspiration to file the petition came after the 2019 Ayodhya verdict of the Supreme Court, in the Babri masjid-Ram janmabhoomi dispute case, that awarded the disputed 2.77-acre site to the Hindu litigants for the construction of the Ram Mandir.

The petition in the Bhojshala case was filed by the Hindu Front for Justice in May, 2022, challenging the 2003 ASI order. A similar petition of the Kamaluddin Welfare Society, that had been pending since 2019, was added to the case with the Society as a respondent.

The Madhya Pradesh High Court order on the Dhar dispute also refers to the Ayodhya verdict in 10 principles while saying that it was not deciding the property title of the disputed area.

The chain of inspiration that may lead to further disputes of a similar nature does not appear to stop with the Bhojshala verdict, as several other cases – such as the Gyanvapi mosque in Varanasi, the Shahi Idgah mosque in Mathura, and the Shahi Jama Masjid in Sambhal, all in Uttar Pradesh – are already sub judice.

The Bhojshala verdict could lead to more disputes within Dhar itself as Gopal Sharma, convener of Bhojshala Mukti Yajna, says that the outfit has already pinpointed three Islamic sites that he claimed were originally temples.

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From Page One

SC refers UAPA bail issue to larger Bench

"Latest (May 18) judgement says you don't have to see the role, you don't have to see the nature of the crime. So there is no categorisation...This can't be done. This can't be how it has to be applied. It has to be applied to the facts of each case. That's what your Lordships have precisely done," Mr. Raju submitted.

He contended that courts must strike a balance between the "interests of society and victims" and the "rights of the accused" while considering bail under terror statutes.

May 18 judgment

The May 18 judgment, delivered by Justices B.V. Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan, had underlined that the January 5 verdict failed to correctly apply the binding principles laid down by a larger three-judge Bench in *Union of India v. K.A. Najeeb* (2021) case, which held that prolonged incarceration and delay in trial can "melt down" the stringent bail embargo under Section 43D(5) of the UAPA.

The Justice Kumar-led Bench on Friday said that the "discipline of precedent" does not permit a coordinate Bench to express "reservations of a fundamental character" on the alleged misapplication of a larger Bench ruling without the matter first being placed before a Bench of appropriate strength to resolve the "perceived conflict".

"If [the ruling] had proceeded on the basis that Section 43D (5) eclipses Article 21, or that prolonged incarceration has no constitutional bearing in UAPA prosecutions, it could hardly have been invoked by accused persons seeking enlargement on bail. The very reliance placed upon it demonstrates that the said decision cannot be placed in a rigid or one-sided frame," the Bench observed.

The Bench cautioned that an "unqualified reading" of the proposition that mere passage of time may compel bail in every UAPA case could have "serious consequences". Such an approach, it said, would leave courts with little room to examine factors such as the nature of the allegations, the centrality of the accused's role, protection of witnesses, the risk of intimidation, possible reactivation of networks, whether delays were attributable to the accused, and broader concerns of public order and national security.

At the same time, the Bench acknowledged that an "equally unqualified insistence" on Section 43D(5), without regard to prolonged incarceration, would imperil the guarantee of personal liberty under Article 21 of the Constitution. This "perceived conflict", it said, warranted consideration by a larger Bench.

SC recalls some remarks made over textbook row

The court had issued a carte blanche direction to the Union government, States, universities and public institutions receiving government funds to "disassociate" themselves from the three pedagogues.

The educationists submitted that the March 11 order was passed ex parte, without even hearing their side of the story. They said the portions under scrutiny were included in the textbook as a result of a collective decision. The academicians said they were not just "fly-by-night operators", but distinguished in their respective fields of education. Mr. Danino is a Padma Shri awardee.

Justice Bagchi said the court had felt the portrayal of the judiciary in the textbook lopsided. The role of the judiciary as regards its constitutional supremacy was missed out while corruption was highlighted as a unique feature of the judiciary, the judge pointed out.

Senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, for Mr. Kumar, said a malicious intent did not drive the contents of the chapter in the textbook.

"Only when we debate issues in our schools may solutions come... We are tending to whitewash our institutions, children need not be subject to that. Let us have it, warts and all," he submitted.

Mr. Sankaranarayanan said adverse observations like the ones in the March 11 order had a "massive impact".

Though recalling the "harsh" observations in the order, the court said the government, on its part, was free to take its own decision as to whether or not to associate with the three academicians.

'Smart plan will make frontiers impregnable'

"The Government of India has decided to not only stop infiltration but also deport each and every infiltrator. We will not allow unnatural demographic changes. Tripura, West Bengal and Assam now have governments who are convinced that there should be no infiltration. Border personnel should have a dialogue with *patwaris*, district magistrates to identify the infiltration routes and cow smuggling routes," Mr. Shah said.

He was addressing the Border Security Force Investiture Ceremony and the Rustamji Memorial Lecture, held in the honour of the BSF's founder Director General K.F Rustamji.

"In the coming days, the role of the BSF is going to increase even further. We will have to strengthen the security grid by working together with State police forces, armed forces, other paramilitary forces, Narcotics Control Bureau, and intelligence agencies," the Minister noted.

Supreme Court asks panel to review cartoons in textbooks

Order comes after Solicitor-General says cartoons published in NCERT textbooks would be viewed by children of an 'impressionable age'; Justice Indu Malhotra committee to look into the matter

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday asked a former apex court judge-led committee to review cartoons published in NCERT textbooks after Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta pointed out that "textbook is not a space where you use cartoons".

Appearing before a three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, Mr. Mehta, representing the Union Government, raised an objection about cartoons he happened to come across in "some" NCERT textbooks.

Mr. Mehta's objection raised the question whether children should be exposed to satire or lampoon through their study books.

The Solicitor-General said "per se" there were no objections to cartoons, but the ones printed in the school textbooks "were in a context" and would be seen by children of an "impressionable age".

The objection raised the point whether children should be exposed to satire or lampoon through their study books. FILE PHOTO

The top law officer brought up the issue of cartoons displayed in NCERT textbooks during a *suo motu* hearing concerning a recent controversy about the contents in a Class 8 Social Science textbook about the judiciary.

Ban on textbook

In February, the court had prima facie concluded that the content was intended towards "maligning the Indian judiciary". It had initiated contempt proceedings and ordered a "blanket and complete" ban on the textbook.

On Friday, the Bench agreed with Mr. Mehta that the propriety of the cartoons published in the textbook should go to the government-appointed committee headed by former Supreme Court judge, Justice Indu Malhotra. The committee, which included senior advocate K.K. Venugopal and Prof. Prakash Singh, Vice-Chancellor, Hemwati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University, is collaborating with the National Judicial Academy at Bhopal to shape the Legal Studies curricula for Class 8 and other grades.

At the time, the NCERT had also reconstituted the National Syllabus and Teaching Learning Material Committee.

In the past, the court had emphasised that the "art of satire" should not be left to be evaluated by a "touchy and hyper-sensitive individual", but a reasonable person who could see the lighter side.

The court's 2020 judgment in *Indibily Creative (P) Ltd. v. State of West Bengal* had flagged satire's "unique ability to quickly and clearly make a point and facilitate understanding in ways that other forms of communication and expression often do not". The court had argued that choking freedom of expression stifled debate and endangered the stability of the community.

Parents, students challenge CBSE three-language rule

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Board said that at least 2 of the 3 languages for Class 9 students must be Indian languages

Parents and students have approached the Supreme Court on Friday for an urgent hearing against a Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) policy which has made the study of three languages compulsory for Class 9 students from July 1.

Appearing before a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, for the petitioners, asked how Class 9 students were to "suddenly start learning a new language" with the Class 10 Board exam looming next year.

Mr. Rohatgi said there was clear distress among students who were already saddled with academic load and peer pressure.

The senior advocate sought a hearing on Monday. The CJI said the petition would be listed next week before the appropriate Bench.

The three-language rule was declared in a circular issued by the Board on May 15. The circular said that at least two of the three languages must be Indian languages. The circular said the rule was part of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCFSE) 2023.

The CBSE had clarified that there would be no Board examination for the third language in Class 10.

Internal assessment

"All assessments for R3 (third language) shall be entirely school-based and internal. The performance of students in R3 will be duly reflected in the CBSE certificate," the Board said in the circular.

CBSE said schools could offer any language, but at least two of them must be Indian languages. Foreign languages could be taken only as the third or an optional fourth language.

Congress alleges cover-up of NEET paper leak, demands accountability from Centre

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Friday accused the Narendra Modi-led Union government of attempting to "cover up" alleged irregularities in the NEET-UG 2026 examination, with party general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh saying both the Prime Minister and the Education Minister must be held accountable for the "colossal tragedy" and its "ongoing cover-up".

On Thursday, several MPs, during a meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports, questioned National Testing Agency (NTA) officials regarding measures taken to strengthen the examination system and prevent future paper leaks. The NTA Director General told the parliamentary panel that the NEET-UG paper had not been leaked "through their system" and that the matter remained under CBI investigation.

Jairam Ramesh

The Congress said it was "shocked" by reports that top NTA officials had informed a Parliamentary committee that the question paper had not been leaked. Calling the reported remarks of the NTA Director General "scandalous and shockingly dishonest", Mr. Ramesh said, "If that is not a leak, what is? Why is the Modi government trying to deny it now?"

In a post on X, Mr. Ramesh alleged that a "guess paper" containing questions that later appeared in the actual examination had been circulating among students well before the test. "Since the NTA was formed in 2018, the Modi government and its ecosystem have been colluding with the paper leak mafia to suppress the truth of rampant irregularities and fraud in NTA-conducted exams," he alleged.

CBI arrests woman, who was appointed as expert by NTA, for leaking physics questions

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested a Pune-based person in connection with the NEET-UG 2026 case for allegedly leaking some physics questions.

The accused has been identified as Manisha Sanjay Havaldar, currently working in Seth Hiralal Saraf Prashala (Pune).

According to the CBI, she was involved in the NEET-UG 2026 process and appointed by the National Testing Agency (NTA) as an expert.

The agency alleged that she had complete access to the physics question papers. In April, she had shared some of the questions with co-accused Manisha Gurunath Mandhare, who was arrested on May 16 for allegedly leaking biology questions. The questions Ms. Havaldar shared have tallied with the physics questions in the examination paper, it said.

The RCC Coaching Institute in Pune has been sealed by municipal authorities.

The CBI registered the case on May 12, following a complaint from the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, and has so far arrested 11 persons.

Among them is Shivraj Motegaonkar, a professor and owner of RCC Coaching Institute in Latur. The institute has nine branches. He is acquainted with chemistry lecturer P.V. Kulkarni, who is associated with the NTA and has been arrested by the CBI on the charge of leaking chemistry questions.

Searches at the institute premises and Mr. Motegaonkar's residence resulted in the seizure of a chemistry question bank that contained questions identical to those which appeared in the test held on May 3, the agency said.

SC grants bail to J&K man held under UAPA after 5 years in custody

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday allowed bail to a young man from Jammu and Kashmir accused under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) for being part of a cross-border conspiracy to "originate and implement" a covert method of attack called 'hybrid terrorism' in the Valley using both physical and online realms to radicalise youth to take up arms after the abrogation of Article 370.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant took note of the fact that the man, Suhail Ahmad Thokar, had been languishing in custody as an undertrial since his arrest in October 2021.

The Supreme Court noted that the trial would take time. Meanwhile, protected witnesses in the trial had already made their statements without fear. The Bench said Suhail Ahmad Thokar, in his twenties, should be enlarged on bail considering the period of time he had already spent behind bars as an undertrial.

The court did not make any comments on the merits of the case against Mr. Thokar, and subjected him to stringent conditions to be imposed by the NIA court in Delhi.

300-odd witnesses

Mr. Thokar's counsel said there were 300-odd witnesses in the case. The only allegation against his client was that he took two persons to a house. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) had attempted to build a case against him through "extracts" allegedly found on his phone. "The only evidence supposedly shown against me is what I gave them... Nothing remains against me. The protected witnesses have not said anything to implicate me," the counsel submitted.

HC slams WFI for denying Phogat a chance to participate in Asian Games selection trials

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Friday questioned the Wrestling Federation of India's decision to deny Olympian wrestler Vinesh Phogat an opportunity to participate in the selection trials for the 2026 Asian Games, and slammed the federation for describing her 2024 Paris Olympics disqualification as a "national shame".

The court said they would pass orders on Ms. Phogat's plea seeking permission to participate in the selection trials scheduled for May 30 and 31.

Vinesh Phogat has challenged WFI's circular prescribing eligibility criteria for participation in the Asian Games trials. SANDEEP SAXENA

Effective exclusion

Ms. Phogat has challenged the WFI's circular prescribing eligibility criteria for participation in the Asian Games selection trials. Under the revised policy, only wrestlers who secured medals in competitions held in 2025 or 2026 are eligible to participate in the trials.

The wrestler contended that the criteria effectively excluded her as she had been away from competition since December 2024, especially since she gave birth to a child in July 2025.

She also challenged a showcase notice issued by the WFI on May 9 which referred to her disqualification from the women's 50 kg final at the 2024 Paris Olympics as a "national embarrassment".

Taking strong exception to the language used in the notice, the Bench questioned the federation's conduct. "She was in the finals. Would you describe it as a national shame? Is that how you are serving the cause of wrestling in the country?" the court asked.

Ms. Phogat had been disqualified from the 2024 Paris Olympics final for failing the weigh-in by 100 grams despite qualifying for the gold medal bout.

HC grants interim bail to Khalid in 2020 case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Friday granted three-day interim bail to activist Umar Khalid, who is in custody in a case under UAPA [Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act] concerning the "larger conspiracy" behind the February 2020 riots in the capital that left 53 people dead and more than 700 injured.

The court permitted Khalid to be released from June 1 to 3 to enable him to meet his mother who has to undergo a surgery.

The court said that the Supreme Court rejected Khalid's regular bail plea on January 5 but granted him the reprieve by taking an "empathetic view".

Additional Solicitor General S.V. Raju, appearing for the Delhi Police, argued that Khalid's mother has to undergo a minor surgery and he should be permitted to visit her with a police escort.

Reconstituted PAC meets; BJP objects to committee taking up issues *suo motu*

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

The reconstituted Public Accounts Committee (PAC) convened on Friday, during which BJP members objected to PAC Chairperson K.C. Venugopal taking up certain subjects for examination by the committee *suo motu*.

The subjects include policy reforms in the banking, insurance, and energy sectors. BJP MP Nishikant Dubey is said to have objected to the PAC taking up these subjects on its own. However, Mr. Venugopal is said to have cited precedence, when BJP leader Murli Manohar Joshi headed the parliamentary panel and took up issues *suo motu*.

"The Chairman made it clear that deciding which subjects to take up is the committee's prerogative and cited precedent in support," an Opposition member, who declined to be named, told *The Hindu*.

K.C. Venugopal

Despite the difference over the *suo motu* subjects, sources claimed the meeting was very cordial and members across party lines congratulated Mr. Venugopal for the way he conducted the PAC meetings.

The panel also expressed concern over pending Action Taken Notes (ATNs) and a heavy backlog in the Audit Para Monitoring System, a web-based platform set up by the Comptroller and Auditor-General (CAG) to track and monitor follow-up action by respective Ministries on audit observations regarding irregularities, procedural violations, financial lapses, or inefficient use of public funds.

"Chaired the first meeting of the Public Accounts Committee (2026-27). The previous PAC (2025-26) successfully presented 26 reports to Parliament. The heavy backlog in the Audit Para Monitoring System is a cause for serious concern, with 1500+ ATNs being pending before various Ministries/Departments. In light of the complex nature of public expenditure in our country, a more cooperative and quicker response to audits from the C&AG is the need of the hour," Mr. Venugopal said in a post on X.

Centre promised more legislative powers for Ladakh, says delegation

Govt. officials have proposed a new mechanism within the existing Union Territory framework, say representatives from the Leh Apex Body and the Kargil Democratic Alliance, adding that Statehood would be considered after financial growth

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry has proposed a new mechanism to grant Ladakh greater legislative, financial, and administrative powers within the existing Union Territory framework, according to civil society members who attended a sub-committee meeting with Ministry officials on Friday.

The members told *The Hindu* that the talks were positive and that the Home Ministry would soon send a draft mentioning the proposed changes, which they were told would be under the framework of "U.T. with legislative powers".

A civil society delegation comprising representatives of the Leh Apex Body (LAB) and the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) from Ladakh met Ministry officials and Ashish Kundra, Chief Secretary, Ladakh on Friday. The delegation included climate activist Sonam Wangchuk, who was released from detention under the National Security Act on March 14.

Members of Leh Apex Body and Kargil Democratic Alliance after the meeting with Home Ministry officials on Friday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Cherring Dorjay Lakruk, co-convener of LAB, told *The Hindu* that the Ministry was proposing a legislature, it did not want to give it the name of "Statehood" as the move would put the burden of revenue generation on Ladakh and the Centre would not be able to allocate funds.

"We were told that when Ladakh is financially sound, then Statehood can be considered. Functions of the Chief Secretary and other administrative functions will be decided by the elected body. It is not clear how the elected members will be referred to... as Members of Legislative Assembly (MLA) or something else. We are waiting for the MHA's proposal. We also have to send a proposal from our side," Mr. Lakruk said.

Safeguards sought

The LAB and the KDA, representing Leh and Kargil districts, respectively, said in a statement that they reached an in-principle understanding with the Union government on providing constitutional safeguards on the lines of Article 371 A, F, and G of the Constitution (as applied to Nagaland, Sikkim and Mizoram). Article 371 deals with "Temporary, Transitional and Special Provisions", and exists in 12 States.

When asked what had changed now, as the Union government had earlier too proposed such safeguards, Mr. Lakruk said, "Earlier, they did not propose legislative powers or elected representatives for Ladakh."

The KDA and the LAB would work out the finer operational details with the Home Ministry in consultation with legal and constitutional experts, said Sajjad Kargili, co-chairman of the KDA.

Thupstan Chhewang, former chairman of the LAB and former BJP MP, who also attended the meeting, said that the nomenclature of the new constitutional dispensation will be finalised through deliberation.

A senior government official said that Centre was committed to democratic representation and several models, including safeguards available under Article 371, were discussed.

India, Cyprus elevate bilateral ties to strategic partnership; ink pact for defence cooperation

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

In a sign of India's expanding involvement in the eastern Mediterranean region, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said that India's ties with Cyprus are based on "respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity".

Welcoming Cypriot President Nikos Christodoulides, Mr. Modi laid out an ambitious canvas for the bilateral relationship, presenting Cyprus as an "investment gateway" to the European Union (EU). Cyprus currently holds the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

India and Cyprus announced the elevation of their bilateral ties to the level of a "strategic partnership", and also formed a road map for defence cooperation. Cypriot officials said that Nicosia is interested in buying items from the Indian defence industry. "India-Cyprus relations are strong as well as futuristic. Our relationship is based on democracy and the rule of law. We respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries. India is totally committed to these principles and will remain so in the future," the Prime Minister said in a statement, after the two sides held delegation-level talks and sealed multiple agreements at Hyderabad House.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Cypriot President Nikos Christodoulides in New Delhi on Friday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Mr. Modi's reference to "sovereignty and territorial integrity" is being widely interpreted as support to Cyprus as it continues to deal with Northern Cyprus, which Turkey recognises as a separate state.

Bridge to the EU

In his remarks, the visiting President presented Cyprus-India ties as an entry point for India's wider relationship with the EU, with which New Delhi concluded a Free Trade Agreement earlier this year.

Following the talks, senior Cypriot officials said that Cyprus is eager to provide transhipment facilities for the global traffic of commodities and cargo that are affected by the U.S.-Israel war against Iran. To help remedy the current disruption in supply chains, Cyprus has started powering the IMEEC and has formed a 'Friends of IMEEC' grouping within the EU. "We had extensive discussions on IMEEC. We agree that we need to start the building blocks in order for IMEEC to be realised," a Cypriot official said. Direct flights will soon be launched between India and Cyprus, Cypriot officials said.

They also shared an ambitious plan to use the India-Cyprus relationship to energise the IMEEC project that will also restructure the security architecture of the eastern Mediterranean where Turkey is an active player because of its stakes in northern Cyprus.

According to a joint statement issued at the end of the visit, Mr. Modi and Mr. Christodoulides welcomed the signing of an MoU between the Cyprus Defence and Space Industries Cluster and the Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers. The two sides will intensify collaboration in cybersecurity, the maritime domain, and emerging technologies, it said.

EC announces Rajya Sabha polls for 24 seats on June 18

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Polling for 24 Rajya Sabha seats across 10 States which will fall vacant following the retirement of incumbents - including Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda - would take place on June 18, the Election Commission announced on Friday.

The Rajya Sabha elections will be held in four seats each in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, and Karnataka; three seats each in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan; two seats in Jharkhand; and one seat each in Manipur, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram, the EC said in a statement.

The last date for filing nominations is June 8 and counting will take place after polling on June 18.

The incumbent Rajya Sabha members are retiring on different dates between June 21 to July 19. These include Union Ministers Ravneet Singh and George Kurian, former Chief Minister Digvijaya Singh and Congress leader Shaktisinh Gohil.

The EC also announced bypolls for one Rajya Sabha seat each from Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.

In Maharashtra, the seat fell vacant following the resignation of Deputy Chief Minister Sunetra Pawar, who has since been elected to the State Assembly, while in Tamil Nadu, C.V. Shanmugam of the AIADMK, who became an MLA, resigned from the seat.

In the polls, both the ruling NDA and the Opposition may marginally increase their strength in the Upper House.

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TENDER NOTICE NO. ACE (P&C): TN - 03: 2026-27

[A] CIVIL: ACE (P&C)/ CONTRACTS/ CIVIL - 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620:- (1) Construction of Control Room Building (FF), Foundations, Cable Trench, Comp. Wall, RCC Road & misc. civil works on pile foundations at 66 kV Pipodara-3 S/s, Ta.- Mangrol & Dist. Surat & 02 Nos. of opposite bay at 220 kV Kim S/s under Bharuch circle, **(2)** Construction of Control Room Building, Foundations, Cable Trench, C'Wall, RCC Road & Misc. Civil works etc. at 66 kV Khengarpura S/s Ta. Tharad, Dist. Banaskantha under Palanpur Circle, **(3)** Construction of Retaining cum compound wall, Area Grading, Earthwork for Embankment & Soil Improvement at proposed 66 kV Talala Chokdi S/s, Ta. Veraval-Patan, Dist. Gir Somnath under Junagadh Circle, **(4)** Construction of Control Room Building, Foundations, Cable Trench, Comp. wall, RCC Road, Yard water supply, Watchman cabin etc. at 66 kV Bhadaj-2 S/s & Other end of any 66 kV S/s Ta. Ghatlodia, Dist. Ahmedabad Under Nadiad Circle, **(5)** Construction of Control Room Building, Foundations, Cable Trench, precast Compound Wall, RCC Road & Misc. civil works at 66 kV Lalavadar S/s, Ta. & Dist. Amreli under Amreli Circle, **(6)** Construction of Control Room Building, Foundations, Cable Trench, Compound Wall, RCC Road etc. at 66 kV Khatiyavant S/s, and 02 number of opposite end Feeder Bay at 220 kV Kawant S/s Ta. Kawant, Dist. Chhotaudepur under Construction Division Jambuva under Jambuva Circle, **(7)** Construction of pile foundations for 66 kV D/C tower for transmission line from 66 kV Dhordo to 66 kV Mota Rann S/s Ta. Bhuj, Dist. Kutch under Anjar Circle, **(8)** Construction of Control Room Building, Foundations, Cable Trench, Compound Wall, RCC Road, etc. at 66 kV Sevasi-2 S/s Ta. & Dist. Vadodara and 2 Nos. of Opposite end feeder bays at 66 kV S/s under Construction Division Jambuva under Jambuva Circle, **(9)** Construction of Control Room Building, Foundations, Cable Trench, Compound Wall, RCC Road, etc. at 66 kV Ankodiya S/s Ta. & Dist. Vadodara and 2 Nos. of Opposite end feeder bays at 66 kV S/s under Construction Division Jambuva under Jambuva Circle.

[B] LINE: ACE (P&C)/ CONTRACTS/ E-451, 460, 461, 464/ UPRATING/ TL/ 66kV/ 132kV/ 220kV/ S&E:- (1) Supply, installation, testing & commissioning of conversion of (i) 66 kV Jarod - Amliyara S/C line (ii) 66 kV Gotri - Vidyutnagar 1&2 D/C line (iii) 66 kV Karjan- Kashipura S/C line (iv) 66 kV Jambuva B - Dabhoi S/C line (v) 66 kV Karjan - Gotri B Line-1 & 2 D/C line (Karjan & Gotri Juridiction) (vi) 66 kV Karjan – Gotri-B 1&2 D/C line Tap to Atladara (tap portion) (vii) 66 kV Karjan – Gotri-B Line-1&2 D/C line tap to Makarpura (tap portion including Vadsar LILO Portion) (viii) 66 kV Sankheda - Rustamura S/C line (ix) 66 kV Nandesari -Mogar-2-ND1 S/C line (x) 66 kV Gorwa - Chhani A 1&2 D/C line (xi) 66 kV Sama – Chhani-A S/C line (xii) 66 kV Amaliyara – Chhani-A S/C line with ACSR DOG conductor into equivalent HTLS Conductor (Equivalent weight of ACSR DOG conductor with Higher Ampacity) of Jambuva Circle, **(2)** Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 132 kV D/C Jambuva – Itola TSS line on 132 kV D/C Panther tower with ACSR Panther Conductor & 48F OPGW cable having route length of 7.47 km for drawl of 60 MW Power by Western Railway for 132 kV Itola TSS under LTOA – Deposit work thereof under Option – 1A under Construction Division Jambuva of Jambuva circle on turnkey basis, **(3)** Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 66 kV D/C line on D/C panther tower with AL-59 Conductor (Eq. Wt. to ACSR Panther Conductor) from 400 kV Mevasa substation to 66 kV Moda substation package-2 from AP-41/1 to AP-75 having Overhead line length 15.59Rkm under Anjar Circle. (Only OH Portion), **(4)** supply, Installation, testing & commissioning of conversion of 220 kV Dahej - Haldarwa line-1 & 220 kV Dahej– Haldarwa line-2 of Bharuch Circle with ACSR Zebra Conductor into equivalent HTLS Conductor (Equivalent weight of Zebra Conductor with Higher Ampacity).

[C] SUBSTATION: ACE (P&C)/ CONTRACTS/ E-429, 450:- (1) Design, engineering, manufacturing, supply, erection, testing & commissioning of 01Nos. of 220/132 kV 150MVA Transformer No-5 Bay at 400 kV Asoj S/s under Jambuva circle on EPC basis excluding Civil works, **(2)** Supply, Erection, Testing, and commissioning of 66 kV equipment's & materials on Turnkey basis including civil works for 66 kV Substations and associated transmission lines (OH only) (Package-3 i.e., Mehsana Zone and Surendranagar Circle).

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Jaishankar to host Quad Ministers' meet on May 26; discuss 'free Indo-Pacific'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Days after U.S. President Donald Trump's visit to China, India will chair a meeting of the Quad's Foreign Ministers on Tuesday, with talks about a "free and open Indo-Pacific" on the top of the agenda.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar will host his counterparts from the U.S., Australia, and Japan on May 26, at the end of U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio's bilateral visit to India.

Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong and Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi have already visited Delhi in the past few months for separate bilateral visits, and are expected to arrive on Monday for the Quadrilateral meeting.

"In keeping with the Quad vision for a Free and Open Indo-Pacific, the Ministers will build on discussions held in Washington, D.C. on 1 July 2025," the External Affairs Ministry said in a statement, referring to the last time the Quad Foreign Ministers had met and recast priorities for the grouping that appears to have been put on the backburner over the past year.

S. Jaishankar

India was unable to host the Quad Summit last year, though it still hopes to do so later this year, depending on the schedules of Mr. Trump, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, and his Japanese counterpart, Sanae Takaichi.

The Ministry said the Ministers would exchange views on "advancing Quad cooperation across priority areas, review progress on ongoing Quad initiatives, and reflect on recent developments in the Indo-Pacific region and other international issues of mutual concern".

In particular, the meeting is expected to take stock of Mr. Trump's visit to Beijing, the ongoing talks over the U.S.-Israel conflict with Iran, and the Strait of Hormuz blockade that is impacting trade and energy supplies across the region.

During a visit to Sweden for a meeting with NATO allies on Friday, Mr. Rubio said that talks had made some progress, but warned against Iran's plan to set up a "tolling system" over the Hormuz Strait. Mr. Rubio is expected to discuss critical mineral initiatives and oil exports with Quad partners, as well as seek support for U.S. plans to ensure that Iran opens up the Strait for ships to travel through at the earliest.

It is unclear whether the Quad will also discuss the U.S. Navy's torpedo attack on an Iranian ship near Sri Lankan waters on March 4.

Rupee should not be allowed to hit ₹100 per dollar: RSS wing

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

The debate raging over whether or not the rupee should be bolstered by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) gained another perspective, with the Swadeshi Jagaran Manch (SJM) weighing in. The economic wing of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) said on Friday that the Indian currency should be supported, and not allowed to hit the ₹100 per dollar mark.

On Thursday, Arvind Panagariya, the Chairperson of the 16th Finance Commission, had posted on X, saying that the RBI should allow the rupee to slide even over ₹100 per dollar. That figure "was just a number", he said.

Protect industry

Replying to Mr. Panagariya's post, Ashwani Mahajan, the co-convener of the SJM, said the further depreciation of the rupee would hit India's standing in the world and its position in the global GDP rankings. Indian industry must be protected through other means, he added.

"For the structural weakness of the rupee, band-aid solutions will not work. *Aatmanirbharta* [self sufficiency] is the answer to this," Mr. Mahajan said.

"We need to protect our industry, not because they are inefficient, but because foreigners (China), are dumping their products, because there is a higher cost in our country because of electricity costs being high in India compared to competitors. There are various cesses and logistic costs that are higher over which our domestic industry has no control. People who have been sitting at the top policy making offices do not understand this simple logic and have been issuing a death warrant to our industry for being inefficient," he said.

Any import substitution will have to account for structural issues within the country for the domestic industry, he said, adding that, therefore, the devaluation of the currency is not the only way to lift exports and consequently dollar inflows.

INBRIEF

Severe heatwave conditions to prevail in parts of India

Heatwave to severe heatwave conditions are likely to persist over the plains of Northwest India, Central and East India, and parts of Peninsular India during the next six to seven days, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Friday. The IMD stated that heatwave conditions are likely in isolated areas of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh from May 22 to May 28. "Severe heatwave conditions over East Uttar Pradesh and East Madhya Pradesh are expected during the same period," the IMD said. Severe heatwave conditions are predicted in some areas of these regions between May 24 and May 27. PTI

Govt. restricts Pregabalin sale after reports of drug abuse

Pregabalin has been included under Schedule H1 of the Drugs Rules, 1945, vide a Gazette Notification, according to information released by the Union Health Ministry on Friday. The drug, which is prescribed for the treatment of chronic pain, neuropathies, fibromyalgia, and certain neurological conditions, has reportedly been misused for its sedative, euphoric, and dissociative effects. The H1 prescription drug comes with caution that it is dangerous to take this preparation except in accordance with the medical advice and that it cannot be sold by retail without the prescription of a registered medical practitioner.

Two Indians die while descending Mount Everest

Two Indian mountaineers who summited Mount Everest have died while descending, an official said on Friday. The climbers, identified as Arun Kumar Tiwari and Sandeep Are, were exhausted while they were coming down from the peak and could not be saved despite the best efforts of their guides, said Rishi Bhandari, secretary general of the Expedition Operators Association of Nepal. Are summited on Wednesday and Tiwari on Thursday, Mr. Bhandari said. While Are died on Thursday, it is not clear when Tiwari passed away. On Wednesday, three Indians, including Are, were part of 274 climbers who summited the peak. PTI

India successfully test-fires Agni-1 ballistic missile

India on Friday successfully tested the short-range ballistic missile Agni-1 from the Integrated Test Range in Balasore, Odisha. According to the Defence Ministry, the launch, carried out under the aegis of Strategic Forces Command, validated all operational and technical parameters of the missile system. The successful trial marks another significant milestone in maintaining the operational preparedness and strategic deterrence capability of Indian Armed Forces, it added. On May 8, a flight trial of an advanced Agni missile with a Multiple Independently Targetable Re-Entry Vehicle was successfully carried out from Odisha.

Centre asks States, U.T.s to step up Ebola surveillance

Health Secretary says growing international trade and travel necessitated adequate preparedness; States directed to reinforce infection prevention and control practices in healthcare facilities

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Following the World Health Organization's (WHO) declaration of the ongoing Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern, the Centre has directed all States and Union Territories to strengthen surveillance, hospital preparedness, and rapid response systems.

Union Health Secretary Punya Salila Srivastava, in a letter to States and Union Territories, said countries bordering the affected regions, including South Sudan, were at high risk of transmission, though the present risk to countries outside the affected African region remained low.

The Health Secretary, however, cautioned that growing international trade and travel necessitated "adequate preparedness and response capacities at all levels of the health system".

The States have been asked to intensify surveillance under the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) for unusual clusters of fever and symptoms suggestive of Ebola disease, particularly among individuals with recent travel history to affected regions.

Red Cross workers gather to disinfect a hospital before handling the body of a person who died of Ebola in DRC. REUTERS

The advisory listed symptoms such as fever, weakness, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhoea, stomach pain, rash, and red eyes as warning signs requiring close monitoring.

The Ministry has also circulated a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) covering disease surveillance, sample collection, storage and referral mechanisms for suspected Ebola cases.

Isolation facilities

The States have been instructed to identify designated isolation facilities and dedicated ambulances with infection prevention and control measures in place. The advisory also called for ensuring adequate availability of trained healthcare personnel, personal protective equipment (PPE), logistics support, laboratory facilities, and critical care infrastructure.

The Health Secretary said the Indian Council of Medical Research's National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune, remained fully equipped to test samples from suspected Ebola cases identified either at Points of Entry or within communities.

The communication stressed the need for establishing coordination mechanisms between NIV Pune, airport, and port health authorities; State Surveillance Units; and District Surveillance Units for timely referral and testing of samples.

Infection prevention

The States have further been asked to reinforce infection prevention and control practices in healthcare facilities, including triage systems, isolation protocols, hand hygiene, environmental cleaning, and biomedical waste management.

The States and districts have been asked to keep multidisciplinary Rapid Response Teams in readiness for disease surveillance, outbreak control, and clinical management of suspected cases.

Twisha's husband detained; HC allows second autopsy

Mehul Malpani
DHAR

Samarth Singh, the husband of Twisha Sharma who allegedly ended her life recently, was taken into custody by the Madhya Pradesh Police on Friday after he remained absconding for days in connection with a dowry death and harassment case, officials said.

The Madhya Pradesh High Court ordered a second autopsy of Sharma's body by a specialised team from AIIMS, Delhi.

The case saw a spree of developments on Friday, with the State government recommending a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe, two days after Chief Minister Mohan Yadav met Sharma's family.

Bhopal Police Commissioner Sanjay Kumar confirmed the detaining of Mr. Singh saying that the police will produce him before a court within 24 hours. "Samarth Singh has been taken into custody, and our police team is handling this entire process. We have to produce him before the court within 24 hours," Mr. Kumar said.

Mr. Singh, a lawyer, was taken into custody by the Jabalpur Police when he arrived at the district court there. Jaideep Kaurav, his lawyer, said, "He appeared before the Jabalpur District Court to surrender himself, but the court was not available. After that, the Jabalpur police took his custody and handed him over to the Bhopal police."

Samarth Singh arrives to surrender at the Jabalpur court on Friday. ANI

Hearing a petition filed by Sharma's father Navnidhi Sharma, Justice Avanindra Kumar Singh said that since the woman had died within six months of marriage, a second post-mortem should be conducted to clear all doubts. It will be conducted in Bhopal, the court ruled.

(For those in distress, counselling is available at TeleMANAS-14416)

Centre says it will bring back people sent to Bangladesh

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Centre informed the Supreme Court on Friday that it would bring back to India a few people whose families alleged were "pushed" into Bangladesh, and would verify their citizenship claims upon their return.

"The government will bring them back and thereafter examine their status. Depending on the outcome, steps will be taken accordingly," Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta submitted.

The top court was hearing a plea of the Centre challenging a September 26, 2025 order of the Calcutta High Court that set aside the Centre's decision to deport Sunali Khatun and others to Bangladesh and termed it as "illegal".

The court posted the matter for hearing in July.

139 Indians released from Russian military service, Centre tells SC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union government informed the Supreme Court on Friday that 217 Indian nationals had joined the Russian Armed Forces during the Ukraine conflict, of whom 139 have been released from their contractual agreements.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant was informed by Additional Solicitor-General Aishwarya Bhati that 49 of the 217 Indians had lost their lives in the conflict, while six were confirmed missing.

Of the 26 Indians whose families had approached the Supreme Court, the Centre said 14 were dead, 11 missing, and one incarcerated for a criminal offence.

The government also said the mortal remains of eight individuals had been returned to their families.

Counsel appearing for the families questioned the identification of the mortal remains, saying they were beyond recognition.

Counsel also sought compensation for the families and action against agents who had allegedly "trafficked" the youths to Russia.

Ms. Bhati said the government was extending support for the collection of DNA samples from family members to help identify the remains.

The petitioners had sought a judicial direction to the government, through the Ministry of External Affairs, to take "immediate diplomatic and consular measures through the Embassy of India in the Russian Federation to ascertain the whereabouts, legal status and safety of the Indian nationals named in the petition".

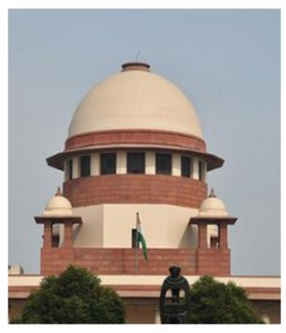
SC asks police to register FIRs in missing person cases quickly and activate anti-trafficking cells

Aaratrika Bhaumik
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday directed police authorities across the country to immediately register FIRs in all missing persons cases and ordered that Anti-Human Trafficking Units be made fully functional within four weeks.

A Bench of Justices Ahsanuddin Amanullah and R. Mahadevan observed that the rising number of missing children cases could be attributed to "gaps" in coordination among various agencies, and pointed out that many such children fall prey to organised inter-State trafficking syndicates.

"The Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, is directed to put in place an all-India grid connecting every police station in the country on one platform, which will have a special portal dedicated to human trafficking, including missing children and women," the Bench ordered.



Police stations were directed to immediately register FIRs, incorporating offences under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, relating to kidnapping and trafficking, the moment information regarding a missing person is received, without waiting for a preliminary inquiry or leaving it to the guardians of the missing person.

The Bench directed authorities to proceed on the presumption of kidnapping or abduction from the outset whenever a child goes missing.

It further ordered that all necessary steps be taken to ensure that recovered children are restored to their families within 24 hours.

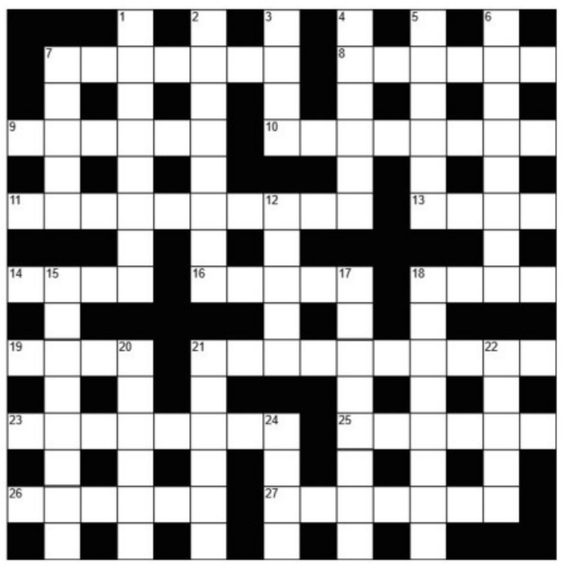
The court, however, cautioned that such restoration should not be undertaken mechanically in cases involving human trafficking where the guardians or family members are found to have played a role in the trafficking of the child or victim. In such cases, the immediate responsibility for the child's care and protection would vest with State authorities, including the Child Welfare Committees, it said.

TH CROSSWORD + 14801

(set by Saral)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://thehindu.com/crosswords*

SCAN TO PLAY



ACROSS

7. Coach crossing borders of Ecuador landscape (7)
8. Land for cultivation almost lay bare, abandoned (6)
9. Pound meat, mostly simple (6)
10. Enthusiastic joker, say is an unexpected entrant (8)
11. Think new ad stunned producer in the end (10)
13. Vent in yard somewhat small (4)
14. Originally artistic, perfectly styled ecclesiastical (4)
16. Bill controlling instrument's opening sound (5)
18. Wine in plastic (4)
19. Traces of shimmering mist outside garage pollution (4)
21. Improve finally female, male ratio somehow (10)
23. Quiet again possibly outside hotel in city (8)
25. Escape from leader leaving retreat (6)
26. Finish shift around noon online (6)
27. Devilish convict suppressing leaders of undertrial cellmates (7)

DOWN

1. To begin with play two notes before debut (8)
2. Ford, perhaps covering head, tailing German troops (8)
3. Blizzard? Initially shovel right away (4)
4. A daughter following dance and song (6)
5. Post describing company symbol (6)
6. Drink consuming smart music maker (8)
7. Mark, say in wagon behind bar (5)
12. Amateur moaned aloud? Secretly! (5)
15. Maybe help a politician with essentially voter notice (8)
17. Proof from new church supporting first lady having papers (8)
18. Flier in A-one barge carrying empty car (8)
20. Friend in gang occasionally wheeling goose (6)
21. Join a discussion from the beginning in this place (6)
22. Spot a sergeant holding weapon (5)
24. Jobless International director left capital of Europe (4)

SUDOKU

				6	1			
	1	5				4	7	
9			5					
4					6		1	5
3		1				6		4
5	2		1					8
					7			1
	7	8				9	5	
			2	1				

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to previous puzzle

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

7	4	1	6	9	3	5	2	8
8	3	2	7	1	5	9	6	4
5	9	6	4	2	8	3	1	7
4	1	7	9	8	6	2	5	3
6	2	5	3	4	1	8	7	9
9	8	3	5	7	2	1	4	6
3	6	8	1	5	4	7	9	2
1	7	4	2	3	9	6	8	5
2	5	9	8	6	7	4	3	1

FAITH

Hanuman: supreme guru

Swami Vedanta Desikan says, *Hanumat samena guruna*, meaning, Hanuman is the yardstick against whom all other gurus are measured. Why does Hanuman enjoy such an exalted status? There are many reasons for Hanuman being hailed as incomparable, but it is enough if we study two aspects, said Damal S. Ramakrishnan.

First, Hanuman is a life saver. He saved the life of Sugriva, without whom Rama could not have successfully embarked on his search for Sita. Hanuman saved the life of Sita in a poignant manner. Kamban paints this graphically in his inimitable poetic style in his Ramayanam. He says Sita decided that death alone was the dharmic way for her after Ravana's continued pressure on her. Hanuman, watching her from a tree branch, quickly utters Rama's name and declares himself to be a messenger, thereby saving her life. He helped revive Lakshmana twice in the war in Lanka. Second, Hanuman acquires the status of a guru sent by Rama to search and locate Sita, as mentioned in the Sundara Kanda of the Ramayana. Where was Sita? She was in Lanka, an island, held captive in Ashok Van after being abducted by the ten-headed Ravana. In a deeper sense, the island signifies the ocean of worldly existence (material world) that all of us are caught in, with our *indriyas* being the captors. Regardless of the harsh situation, Sita never stopped praying to Rama to come and get her. Whenever a *jivatma* surrenders to the *Paramatma* (Perumal), He will send someone to save that *atma* from the ocean of repeated rebirths. Since he was the guru to both Sita and Rama, Hanuman is, in effect, Maheswara, the one who imparts *gnana* and lifts one from worldly pursuits.

INFRASTRUCTURE CONCLAVE

Suresh Nambath, Editor, *The Hindu*, with Maharashtra Deputy CM Eknath Shinde in Mumbai. EMMANUAL YOGINI

The Hindu is another name for trust, says Eknath Shinde

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, speaking at *The Hindu* Maharashtra Infrastructure Conclave in Mumbai on Friday, said the newspaper had kept its dignity in an age of sensational news and called it "another name for trust". Mr. Shinde took part in a session titled "Where Maharashtra's Next Growth Story Takes Shape" with Vinaya Deshpande, Chief of Bureau, *The Hindu*.

The Deputy Chief Minister praised the publication for its approach to news.

"*The Hindu*, even in an age of sensational news, has managed to maintain its integrity," Mr. Shinde said.

"The other name for trust is *The Hindu*. If I say this, it won't be wrong," the Deputy Chief Minister added.

'A direct job at Mazagaon dock generates 6.4 jobs in India'

Speaking at *The Hindu* Maharashtra Infrastructure Conclave, Chairman and Managing Director Captain Jagmohan (retd) said that one direct job at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd. (MDL) generates 6.4 jobs across India. He highlighted Project 17A frigate, where 4,500 MDL workers support nearly 28,000 positions in ancillary industries.

The Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision aims to place India among the top five shipbuilding nations by 2047, with an annual capacity of 4.5 million gross tonnage and an expected investment of ₹4.5 lakh crore.

Captain Jagmohan noted that the Union Cabinet's September 2025 package of ₹69,725 crore provides a base for this target.

Jagmohan, Chairman and MD, Mazgaon Dockyard Ltd., speaks during *The Hindu* conclave. EMMANUAL YOGINI

'Infrastructure is key catalyst for economic growth'

Infrastructure is not merely the bedrock of development, but development itself, said M. Jamshed, Distinguished Fellow at CRF and senior adviser to the World Bank, during a special address at *The Hindu* Maharashtra Infrastructure Conclave, 2026, on Friday. Speaking on India's infrastructure growth trajectory over the past decade, Mr. Jamshed described Maharashtra as a "lighthouse" for infrastructure development from Delhi's perspective.

He said the Centre's infrastructure push since 2014 had moved beyond a traditional focus on transport and energy towards a more integrated approach encompassing physical, digital, and social infrastructure.

Mumbai needs 10,000 buses, only 3,000 ply now: BMC chief

Mumbai needs 10,000 buses to operate daily, compared with just 3,000 at present, particularly along the coastal road linking Marine Drive and Versova, Ashwini Bhide, Commissioner of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), said on Friday, underlining that it was essential to the revival of the Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport (BEST).

"The first and foremost aim for BEST's revival is to increase the fleet size... The coastal road has already accommodated the necessary infrastructure which is required for buses. Of course, BEST will have to ply more buses on the coastal road. BEST is overall struggling on certain issues, but I am sure a very comprehensive plan is being made for overall revival of the bus transport because today their fleet size is limited. Probably, Mumbai needs 10,000 buses for everyday commute, but BEST today has close to 3,000 buses," she said at *The Hindu* Maharashtra Infrastructure Conclave in Mumbai, adding that more small buses need to ply.

Ms. Bhide addressed queries on issues Metro commuters face. The recently opened Mumbai Metro Aqua Line has not received mobile connectivity for about six months now. Ms. Bhide said the delay was due to logistical issues and changes in laws.

'Development is not about factories or roads; we must connect with people'

Maharashtra Deputy CM Eknath Shinde highlights the importance of projects in Maoist-affected areas of the State, batting for a cluster-based approach to development that covers multiple villages; he says the government's monthly aid scheme for women will not be halted at any cost

Chinmay Gaikwad
MUMBAI

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Friday outlined a holistic vision for Maharashtra's infrastructure development, highlighting the importance of projects in Maoist-affected areas. Speaking at *The Hindu* Maharashtra Infrastructure Conclave, 2026, he said, "Surjagadh in Gadchiroli is as important to me as Mumbai," while shedding light on the government's rehabilitation strategy for Maoist-affected areas.

The session, "Mumbai to Surjagadh: Expressway to Prosperity", was moderated by Vinaya Deshpande, Chief of Bureau, Maharashtra, *The Hindu*.

In an hour-long conversation, Mr. Shinde spoke on infrastructure, the development of backward districts, and the political landscape in the State. The *Mahayuti* government's monthly aid programme, the *Ladki Bahin Yojana*, would not be halted at any cost, he said, adding it had given financial independence to marginalised women, giving a boost to the local economy.

Holistic vision: Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde during *The Hindu* Maharashtra Infrastructure Conclave, 2026 at Taj President in Mumbai on Friday. EMMANUAL YOGINI

"The distance between Mumbai and Surjagadh in Gadchiroli district is around 1,000 km. In the last four years, we have reduced that distance – not just on the map, but in our hearts," Mr. Shinde said.

Recalling his tenure as Guardian Minister of Gadchiroli during the previous *Maha Vikas Aghadi* (MVA) government, he added, "No one wanted to take responsibility for Gadchiroli. When the government launched its programmes, there was violence."

Mr. Shinde said he spoke directly with the Maoists. "We understood that rehabilitation must be proper, not temporary. That is when many Naxals surrendered," he said, pointing to a cluster-based development approach covering multiple villages hit by left-wing extremism.

"If more development projects are added and people get jobs in Gadchiroli, Maoism will reduce."

'Ignored threats'

The Deputy Chief Minister further said he celebrated Deepavali with security personnel in Gadchiroli despite threats. "Development is not about factories or roads. It is about people. We need to connect with people. Build roads today so dreams can reach tomorrow," he said, adding that Gadchiroli will get an airport after land acquisition is completed and that the Samruddhi Expressway will bring the district into the mainstream. On the *Ladki Bahin Yojana*, he said: "We have given rights to women who have started small financial groups and taken up entrepreneurship. It will not stop."

When asked about speculation on internal tussles within the ruling *Mahayuti* over the seat-distribution formula for the Legislative Council elections, he said an understanding would be reached soon. On the anticipated Cabinet reshuffle at the Centre, he stated: "Shiv Sena does not expect anything from the Cabinet reshuffle. We do not bargain with Prime Minister [Narendra] Modi. Modi*ji* is a leader. We are happy with our ideology."

(From left) Diplomats Paul Murphy and Erik Hallstrom with Vinaya Deshpande at the conclave. EMMANUAL YOGINI

'Maharashtra emerging as major hub for investment'

Mumbai and Maharashtra are increasingly emerging as major destinations for global investment in infrastructure, clean energy, education and technology, diplomats from Australia and Finland said during a panel discussion on "More than a financial hub: Mumbai from the eyes of the world" on Friday.

Australian Consul General Paul Murphy said the pace of infrastructure development had been "astounding", citing Metro rail expansion, highway connectivity, and urban transport projects as key drivers of investor confidence.

Finnish Consul General Erik Hallstrom stressed the importance of strengthening public transport systems. "What this city needs is more Metro lines, buses and integrated transport systems". He added that Finnish companies were interested in sustainability, circular economy solutions, green technologies and education sectors in the State.

'Mumbai Metropolitan Region to add ₹1.7 lakh crore to the economy'

Chinmay Gaikwad
MUMBAI

Lok Sabha member Shrikant Shinde, Mumbai Suburban Guardian Minister Ashish Shelar, and Mahendra Kalyankar, CEO of the Slum Rehabilitation Authority (SRA), presented a set of proposals for the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR).

They said the region would contribute ₹1.7 lakh crore to Maharashtra's economy by 2047, driven by decentralisation, a 377-km metro network, and a housing plan that targets slum dwellers with 300 square feet rehabilitation units.

Speaking at a panel on the expanding metropolis during *The Hindu* Maharashtra Infrastructure Conclave on Friday, Mr. Shinde said the MMR had received around ₹4 lakh crore in funds. Data centres and logistics hubs in Navi Mumbai, along with a port at Vadhavan, would create jobs and reduce the pressure on Mumbai, he added. The 377-km Metro, he added, would be the largest such network in the world. Mr. Shinde also said that Kalyan-Dombivli Municipal Corporation, Ambernath, and Ulhasnagar corporations had unified their road and water transport systems for commuters. Ashish Shelar, Guardian Minister for Mumbai suburbs, acknowledged that the 437 sq. km area in the city had challenges that would not be resolved in a short period. A remapping of connectivity routes is in progress, and more than 1,000 new buses have been added to the BEST fleet, with the rest to be delivered in four years, he said.

Exchanging ideas: Lok Sabha member Shrikant Shinde, Minister Ashish Shelar, and SRA Commissioner Mahendra Kalyankar at the conclave in Mumbai. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Mr. Kalyankar outlined the housing and redevelopment initiatives in the sprawling city. He said Mumbai was the only city in the world to provide 300 sq. ft. rehabilitation houses for slum dwellers with the target of five lakh such houses to be built by 2030 while 2.97 lakh had already been delivered.

Shekhar Singh, Commissioner, Nashik Kumbh Mela; Manisha Khatri, Commissioner, Nashik Municipal Corporation; and Lubaina Rangwala, Programme Director at WRI, at the conclave. EMMANUAL YOGINI

'Kumbh a blueprint for climate-friendly green infrastructure'

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

Nashik is all set to host its Kumbh Mela, and it is a great way to fuse both infrastructure and nature, Lubaina Rangwala, Programme Director at WRI, said at *The Hindu* Maharashtra Infrastructure Conclave on Friday. She was speaking at a session titled "Kumbh: The spiritual boost for a regional economy".

Shekhar Singh, Commissioner of Nashik Kumbh Mela, and Manisha Khatri, Commissioner of Nashik Municipal Corporation, spoke about the highlights and the challenges of the ₹35,000-crore project. About ₹26,000 crore is funded by the State and the rest financed by Central grants. A ring road worth ₹8,000 crore and a 400 kVA power station are major projects besides internal and external quality audit costs, they said.

While underlining the key achievements of the project and its learnings from the past for such a large congregation, Mr. Singh said: "There are certain things that Nashik did very well in 2015. It was a zero incident scope, no stampede, no injured people event." He said that there was more private sector investment in ensuring such concerns are addressed.

Issue of sustainability

The panel also discussed the dilemma of making sure the infrastructure development did not result in environmental damage, including felling trees.

The two commissioners helming the project argued that while it was ideal to not cut trees, it may be necessary for upcoming projects including the Kumbh, Tapovan and the river development project to enable decongestion. They added that this was part of urbanisation.

Ms. Rangwala, however, rebutted that infrastructure should be perceived from the point of access and mobility enhancement and not through the framing of congestion. "Congestion is an unsolvable problem," she pointed out.

Water Metro service will commence by 2028, says Rane

Snehal Mutha
MUMBAI

The residents of the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) will be able to take Water Metro services between Nariman Point, Versova, and Bandra by 2028, said Maharashtra Minister for Fisheries and Ports Development Nitesh Rane.

Mr. Rane outlined the progress made in the maritime sector in the State while speaking at *The Hindu* Maharashtra Infrastructure Conclave, 2026.

"We are currently in the finalisation stage, the Detailed Project Report (DPR) on Water Metro has been submitted, and MoUs [Memoranda of Understanding] have been signed, the process of shortlisting land is under way," said Mr. Rane, adding that connecting Navi Mumbai Airport is also part of the plan.

Nitesh Rane

Road map ready

As a part of MMR Water Metro services, six to eight routes with 21 to 22 Metro stations have been identified.

"Taking inspiration from the water transport models of Sweden and the Netherlands, we have prepared a road map to connect Mumbai and the MMR region," Mr. Rane added.

Mr. Rane highlighted the potential of the maritime sector in the State to contribute to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's $5-trillion economy dream, saying: "The maritime journey has moved from Europe to the Asian side. China, South Korea, and Japan are leading the way, and we as a country are at 0.1%. So that's where we need to take off from and develop the shipbuilding and ship-repair sector."

"We are talking to a lot of operators. One such company is Candela. Their electric boat, which has a 30-passenger capacity, is arriving as early as May 25, and by the first week of June, we are going to start the trial.

Calling Vadhvan Port a game-changer project, Mr. Rane said, "The port aims to offer jobs and we want locals to come and grab those opportunities."

Speaking on the issues at the Sasoon Dockyard in South Mumbai, he said: "We have spoken to Finland to solve our problems. We have the Mukhyamantri Matsya Sampada Yojana, a fisheries development scheme. The budget has been increased from over ₹200 crore to ₹1,000 crore."

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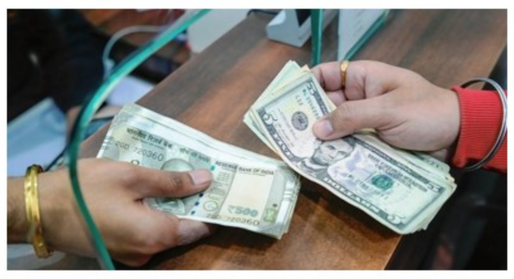
INBRIEF



Rupee rises 76 paise to close at 95.60 against U.S. dollar

The rupee rose for the second consecutive session on Friday to close sharply higher at 95.60 against the U.S. dollar on softening of crude oil prices and supposed intervention by the RBI. Forex traders said markets found some comfort after comments from U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio hinted that diplomatic talks linked to the Iran situation were moving in a constructive direction. Moreover, positive domestic equities and a decline in U.S. treasury yields also supported the rupee. At the interbank forex market, the rupee opened at 96.30 against the U.S. dollar and stayed firm during the intraday. At the end of the trading session, the rupee was quoted at 95.60, higher by 76 paise from its previous close. On Thursday, the rupee rebounded 50 paise from its all-time closing low to settle at 96.36 against the U.S. dollar. PTI

RBI injects transient liquidity of ₹81,590 cr. via VRR auction

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday injected ₹81,590 crore transient liquidity into the banking system through a three-day variable rate repo (VRR) auction. Transient liquidity is temporary cash flow fluctuations in a financial or banking system, while a VRR auction is a monetary tool used by the RBI to inject short-term liquidity into the banking system. In a release, the RBI said the funds were infused at a 5.26% cut-off rate. The demand for funds still remained lower than the notified amount of ₹1 lakh crore despite the sharp drop in liquidity surplus in the banking system. However, in comparison with the previous auction conducted on May 21, the demand was higher from banks in Friday's auction. Experts anticipate that the RBI would announce another VRR auction to manage evolving liquidity conditions. PTI

March 2026 saw net foreign investments decline to -$11.7 bn

RBI data show net FDI positive for second consecutive month in March; portfolio investors withdrew more in March, April, May, than they put in

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

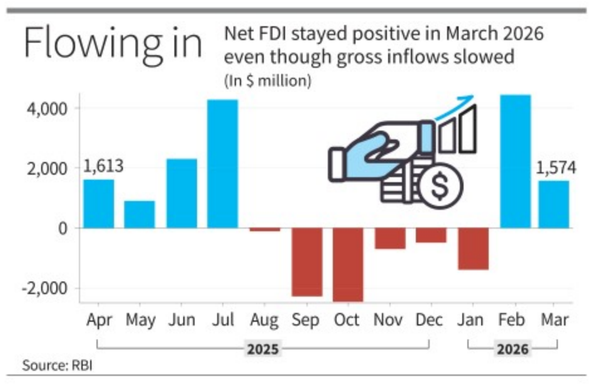
Amidst pressure on the rupee and India's foreign exchange reserves, the latest data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) shows that the total amount of money that left the country in March 2026 exceeded inflows by $11.7 billion. This was the first month after the start of the West Asia crisis.

The overall outflow was driven by the exodus of foreign portfolio investors, which overshadowed the fact that net foreign direct investment (FDI) was positive for the second consecutive month.

That is, while net FDI was $1.6 billion in March 2026, net foreign portfolio inflows stood at -$13.3 billion. Typically, direct investment involves money flowing into growth-generating assets, while portfolio investment refers to money flowing into short- to medium-term stock holdings.

According to the RBI, the outflow of portfolio investments continued in April and May.

The outflow of dollars from the country has simultaneously eaten into the RBI's foreign exchange reserves and has led to the depreciation of the rupee.



Over the full financial year 2025-26, net FDI stood at $7.6 billion, nearly 700% higher than in 2024-25. This occurred despite six out of the twelve months experiencing more direct investment flowing out than in.

"During 2025-26, both gross and net FDI inflows were higher than the previous year," the RBI said in its monthly bulletin for April 2026.

"In March, net FDI remained positive for the second consecutive month, despite a deceleration in gross FDI, on account of relatively low repatriation and outward FDI."

Gross FDI in March 2026, or the total amount of direct investment entering the country that month, stood at $6.2 billion, nearly 31% lower than in February. However, this figure was 6% higher than in March of last year.

On the other hand, total outflows inched up to $4.7 billion in March 2026 from $4.5 billion in the previous month. This figure was 27% lower than in March 2025. Within the outflows, both repatriation by foreign companies operating in India and outward direct investment by Indian firms decreased compared with the previous year.

That is, the quantum of money repatriated and disinvested in March 2026 stood at $2.3 billion, down 40% over March last year, while outward FDI by Indian companies stood at $4.7 billion, down by 27%.

The data, however, showed that while net FDI was positive in March 2026, net foreign portfolio investments were significantly negative. That is, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) took out $13.3 billion more from the Indian markets than they invested.

Demand driving growth, but economic outlook somewhat clouded: RBI report

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

'Pace of export orders displayed weakness, hit by the war and on subdued inbound tourism'

While India's domestic demand remains a key driver of growth, the near-term outlook for the economy is "somewhat clouded" due to supply side pressures brought on by the West Asia crisis, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said in a new report.

"Domestic demand continues to be the key driver of growth," the central bank said in its latest State of the Economy report as a part of its monthly bulletin for April 2026.

"Although headline inflation remains firmly within the tolerance band, the pass through to domestic prices needs to be monitored," it added.

"The financial conditions, crude oil prices and capital flows continue to pose challenges to the external sector outlook."

The central bank noted that while e-way bills continued to hit double-digit growth, and petrol and diesel consumption continued to grow, overall petroleum consumption fell in April due to a sharp fall in the consumption of naphtha, LPG and other petroleum products.

Similarly, higher temperatures led to a sharp increase in electricity demand. "Demand remained broad-based and supported by rural markets," the RBI noted. "Automobile sales in rural areas continued to grow at double digit in April, although showing some sequential moderation."

It added that due to the increase in prices of aviation turbine fuel, the air passenger traffic declined further in April.

Labour market conditions witnessed some moderation in the January-March 2026 quarter, with the labour force participation rate and worker population ratio declining alongside a rise in the unemployment rate.

On the supply side, the RBI said that sowing in the summer season has been "progressing well", surpassing the full season normal acreage and is higher than the previous year. It added that the acreage under all major crops is higher, except for rice.

On the services front, RBI said that the sector remained resilient in April.

However, it added that while the Services PMI accelerated, supported by a boost in transportation activity enabled by domestic suppliers and new business orders, the pace of export orders "displayed weakness", hit by the war in West Asia and subdued inbound tourism.

RBI board approves transfer of ₹2,86,588 cr. surplus to govt.

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Central Board of Directors of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday approved the transfer of surplus of ₹2,86,588.46 crore to the Central Government as dividend for the accounting year 2025-26.

This is an all-time high surplus transfer to the government, 6.7% higher than the ₹2.69 lakh crore transferred in the previous year. This was after taking into consideration the current macroeconomic factors, the financial performance of the bank and maintenance of appropriate risk buffers, the central bank said.

The board, at its 623rd meeting held in Mumbai under the chairmanship of Reserve Bank of India Governor Sanjay Malhotra, decided to transfer ₹1,09,379.64 crore towards the contingent risk buffer (CRB) for FY26 as against ₹44,861.70 crore in the previous year, and maintain the CRB at 6.5% of the size of the RBI balance sheet.

The central bank's board reviewed the global and domestic economic scenario, including risks to the outlook.

The board deliberated on the annual accounts of the Reserve Bank for FY26.

The gross income of the central bank increased by 26.42% over the previous year, while the expenditure before risk provisions increased by 27.6%.

LTM offers €160 mn for Randstad units

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

LTM (formerly LTIMindtree) has on Friday offered to acquire Randstad's technology and consulting services business in France, Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg and Australia, cumulatively representing over $500 million in annual revenue.

The acquisition, for cash consideration of €160 million, is likely to be completed by Q3FY27 and expected to expand LTM's presence in key markets across aerospace and defence, automotive, utilities and BFS.

The deal would enable local domain expertise and complementary regional capabilities in domain-driven digital engineering, cybersecurity and IoT.

Venu Lambu

The pact would also involve a five-year IT services partnership to drive AI-enabled transformation of Randstad's India Global Capability Centre and a strategic talent MSP to support LTM's expanding global workforce.

"The proposed agreement is aligned with our five-year strategy to build a more resilient, diversified, balanced portfolio," said Venu Lambu, CEO & MD.

'Firms giving priority to AI-ready skills'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Insights are based on data taken from 1,215 employers and 2,593 employees across industries in India

As AI becomes central to workforce strategy, Indian employers are prioritising practical, AI-ready skills across general industry and the technology sector, said Nasscom in a report it prepared in collaboration with Indeed, a global job search and hiring platform based in Texas.

Accordingly, Cloud and infrastructure integration, Gen AI and LLMs, including prompt engineering, MLOps and deployment data analytics and visualisation emerged as top skills in demand in the technology sector.

As per the analysis, employers are now actively hiring across three AI categories: AI engineering and development, operations and enablement and infrastructure and data systems, while Python, machine learning, Azure, TensorFlow, and AI are the most in-demand skills for AI-related roles. Whereas for software engineering roles, employers are prioritising skills that include Agile, APIs, Git and communication skills.

The report suggests employers are seeing a rise in hiring for AI-related roles, with BFSI and telecommunications emerging as leaders in this area. There is a 103% rise in internship postings in India.

Aggressive intermediary-led competition hurting general insurers' profitability: report

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Aggressive intermediary-led competition is hurting profitability across the general insurance sector, said consulting firm Praxis Global Alliance in a report reiterating insurance regulator IRDAI's growing concerns over rising commissions and weakening underwriting discipline by general insurance companies.

The report comes days after IRDAI Chairman Ajay Seth flagged the sector's "structurally high-cost" nature and warned against excessive dependence on intermediary-driven distribution models.

'Most growth is coming via commissions.'

Intermediary-led

According to the report, almost 80% of insurance business in India remains intermediary-led through agents, brokers, bancassurance partnerships and OEM channels, resulting in intense competition for distributor mindshare.

"Honestly, a lot of growth today is just being bought through commissions," the report quoted a senior insurance executive as saying. The report noted commission growth outpaced premium growth across private, PSU and standalone health insurers after the revised Expense of Management (EOM) framework came into effect in 2023.

Repco Home Finance Q4 net rises 3.2% to ₹129 crore

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Repco Home Finance Ltd., a Chennai-headquartered retail housing finance company, reported a 3.2% year-on-year rise in net profit for the fourth quarter ended March 31, 2026 to ₹129 crore.

Total income rose 7% to ₹454 crore while net interest income increased 16% to ₹207 crore. Loan sanctions grew 25% to ₹1,320 crore and disbursements 22% to ₹1,186 crore.

Gross non-performing assets improved to 2.55% from 3.26% while net NPAs were 1.17% against 1.32%.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT, DIVISION, DHARWAD

SECTION 1: INVITATION FOR TENDERS (IFT)
(Two Cover System), KW-1,2,3&4

Reg : This office tender Notification No. **02/2026-27** Dated:16.05.2026

The Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Division, Dharwad, invites tenders for **Dharwad, Gadag, Hangal and Ranebennur** Sub Division, comes under various HOA in Standard Bid Document **KW-1,2,3,4** through e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka, viz., **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from eligible contractors for the work under various Head of Account on Item Rate basis.Maximum Estimate Amount: **Rs.950.00** Lakhs, Maximum E.M.D amount **Rs.14.25** Lakhs and Minimum Estimate Amount: **Rs.2.00** Lakhs, Minimum E.M.D amount **Rs.5000;** Period of downloading tender documents from e-procurement portal is from **22/05/2026** upto **45** Days step by step. And any other Corrigendum/Addendum and Postponement of Notification, Changes in the dates, if any will be published only through **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Other details may be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours on all working days. Details published on the e-procurement website **@ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** are final.

Sd/- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
M.I & G.W.D. DIVISION, DHARWAD

DISTRICT URBAN DEVELOPMENT CELL
Office Of The Deputy Commissioner, 2nd Floor,
R. No. 211, Mini Vidhan Soudha, Tumakuru District - 572 101,
Phone : 0816-2955247, E-mail : ka.tumakuru.dudc@gmail.com

No. : D.U.C.U./E.Kka./C.R./75/2023-24(Part-2)
Date : 22-05-2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Project Dirctor, DUDC, Tumkur invites tenders through KPP Portal.

1) DMA/2026-27/IND6302, Date and Time : 22-05-2026 to 20-06-2026 time 17.30 Hrs, Submission of Tender Last Date and Time : 20-06-2026 till Time 17.30 Hrs, Opening Technical Bid Date and Time : 22-06-2026 Time 10.30 Hrs.

Bidders can Obtain information of Tenders through KPP Portal at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Calender of Events and Other information are as follows Postponement of Calender of Events and Addendum (if any) will be notified only in KPP Portal and not Published in Newspapers.

Sd/- Project Director,
District Urban Development Cell,
DC Office, Tumakuru.

DIPR/Tumakuru/12/Manipal/2026-27

BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer
Yalahanka division, Bengaluru – 560064.

No:BNCC/EE/YNK.D/KPPP/05/2026-27 **Date: 22-05-2026**

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(TWO COVER SYSTEM)

(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)

The Executive Engineer, Yalahanka Division, BNCC invites tenders on behalf of the Commissioner, BNCC Bengaluru from eligible Tenderers for the Works detailed in the table below. (Standard Tender Document KW-04)

Sl No.	Name of the Work
1.	Restoration of road cut portion carried out by KIADB at Chowdeshwari layout in **Ward No-03** **Amount put to Tender : ₹. 193.21 Lakhs, EMD: ₹. 2,90,000.00**

Calendar of Events: (1) Tenders must be submitted online through KPP portal on or before **05-06-2026** upto **4:00** pm. (2) Date of Pre-bid Meeting on **26-05-2026** at **3:00** pm. (3) Last date & Time for receipt of tenders **05-06-2026** at **4:00** pm. (4) Date & time of Opening of Technical bid on **06-06-2026** after **4:00** pm.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Yalahanka Division, BNCC

AYUSH DEPARTMENT
Dhanvanthri Road, Bangalore-560 009.
Phone: 080-22876553, Fax: 080-22340139,
e-mail: directorayush.eproc@gmail.com

No: AYUSH/13/PROC/2026 Date: 22-05-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal Only)

The e-tender in Two Document System invited from the Tender inviting Authority and Accounts Officer, Department of AYUSH, Bengaluru for the Data Entry Operator workers under State Scheme, as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements Act 1999-2000 Rules there under.

Calendar of Events

1.	The Tender document will be available in KPP Portal	**from 22.05.2026**
2.	Last date for uploading tender documents through KPP Portal	**03.06.2026 upto 4:30 p.m.**
3.	Date of opening of Technical Bid	**04.06.2026 at 5:00 p.m.**
4.	Date of opening of Financial Bid	**08.06.2026 at 11:30 a.m.**

For further details may be viewed at below website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

DIPR/CP/RO792/AAPL/2026-27 **Sd/- Accounts Officer/Chairman**

Government of India
Department of Space
ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC)
Mahendragiri P.O., Tirunelveli District, Tamil Nadu– 627 133, India

E-TENDER NOTICE **Dated : 22-05-2026**

On Behalf of the President of India, item-rate tenders are invited through **e-tendering** for the following works:

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost ₹ (in Lakhs)	Period of completion	EMD(₹)
1	**NIT no:IPRC/CMG/TD/e-10/MW/CMP-02/2026-27**			
	Vertical extension of Main Building at IPRC, Mahendragiri. [Civil, PH, Electrical & AC works].	**565.00**	**12 (Twelve months)**	**11,30,000**
2	**NIT no:IPRC/CMG/TD/e-11/MW/CMP-03/2026-27**			
	Construction of LVM3 Hardware storage facility at IPRC, Mahendragiri. [Civil, PH, Electrical, Mechanical & AC works].	**1259.59**	**18 (Eighteen months)**	**22,60,000**

Dates for Online Request : From 23-05-2026 [1000 hours] To: 05-06-2026 [2330 hours]
Due Time & Date of Submission : 16-06-2026 [1400 hours]
For further details visit: www.isro.gov.in/tenders (or) www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO.
Note : All future correspondence (Corrigenda) for the above work(s) shall be published only on the websites mentioned above.

GROUP HEAD, CMG, IPRC

TAIPEI

Taiwan says U.S. hasn't notified it of any pause in $14 billion arms sale

AP

Taiwan hasn't been notified of any pause in a planned $14 billion U.S. arms sale to the self-governing island, a government official said on Friday, after the acting U.S. Navy secretary said that some foreign military sales were being delayed to ensure the American military has enough munitions for the Iran war. AP

BEIRUT

Lebanon says Israeli strike kills 10, including six rescuers and a child

AFP

Lebanon's Health Ministry said Israeli strikes killed 10 people on Friday, including six rescuers and a child, as Israel and Hezbollah continued to exchange fire despite a ceasefire. An earlier strike on the southern town of Hanaway also killed four rescuers from the Hezbollah-linked Islamic Health Committee, it said. AFP

BUNIA

Residents burn an Ebola treatment centre in Congo as disease spreads

AP

People set fire to an Ebola treatment centre in eastern Congo's Rwampara after authorities blocked retrieval of a suspected victim's body for funeral rites. The bodies of those who die from Ebola can be highly contagious and lead to further spread when people prepare bodies for burial and gather for funerals. AP

ISTANBUL

Erdogan orders closure of liberal, independent university in Istanbul

REUTERS

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Friday ordered the closure of a top independent university with liberal leanings in the middle of the school year, according to an official decree. The decree revokes the operating licence for Istanbul's Bilgi University, which has more than 20,000 students from Turkiye and abroad. AFP

'India sees relations with China in a bilateral context, but Beijing has never seen it that way'

In every sense, India had the potential to become a rival, and it was always China's intention to keep that rival in check, if not cut it down, says Gokhale; in any conflict China has engaged in, both hot wars and grey zone conflicts, they have looked at where it will place them in terms of larger global balance of power, the former Foreign Secretary adds

INTERVIEW

Vijay Gokhale

Ananth Krishnan

China's past decisions to go to war were not driven by only territorial or military objectives, but shaped by wider political and geopolitical factors, according to the new book *China's Wars: The Politics and Diplomacy Behind its Military Coercion*. Author Vijay Gokhale, a former Foreign Secretary and Ambassador to China, explains his research into Chinese decision-making, how China deploys "grey zone coercion", and the consequences for relations with India. Excerpts.

A theme that emerges from the conflicts you research in this book is that it's never been one reason that led China to go to war, but rather a confluence of factors, especially the global context.

What appeared apparent to me after studying all the conflicts that China has waged, is that it was rarely, if ever, driven purely by operational or territorial objectives. Of course, these were important and continue to be so for China, but it was driven much more by political objectives. The second point is that China has always viewed conflict in a wider global geopolitical context rather than in a narrow bilateral one. If you go through the book, you will see that in practically any conflict China has engaged in, both hot wars and grey zone conflicts, they have looked at where that conflict will place them in the context of the larger global balance of power. That is an extremely important

element that I want to flag in my book, because we tend to see India-China relations only in a bilateral context. Beijing has never looked at it that way, and will never look at it that way either.

In 1962, besides the territorial issues and the Tibet question, you emphasise the importance of the global situation for China, which is perhaps somewhat under appreciated.

The more I looked into why 1962 happened, leaving aside the fact we had a border problem which was getting aggravated with patrolling and counter-patrolling by both sides, which in India we tend to think was the central cause of the conflict, I discovered that this was not necessarily the only cause, or even the most important one.

There were two other important reasons why China went into this conflict with India. Firstly, although the Chinese had never really regarded India as an equal after 1949, they did not dismiss India entirely as a country of no consequence. After all, India and its Prime Minister had a diplomatic stature and international standing. India also had a sizeable economy and had been left with sizeable military power after the British withdrew. Therefore, in every sense, India had the potential to become a rival, and it was always China's intention to keep that rival in check, if not cut it down.

> China has always viewed conflict in a wider global geopolitical context rather than in a narrow bilateral one
>
> **VIJAY GOKHALE**
> Former Foreign Secretary and Ambassador to China

Two major developments happened in 1961 and 1962. First, the Russians began to rebalance and take a more neutral position vis-à-vis India and China than they had done in 1959 and 1960. The threat China perceived of the Soviet Union going to India's side and abandoning them, diminished. More importantly, under new President John F. Kennedy, the U.S. readjusted its policy on Taiwan. Noting this, the Chinese well understood that both the U.S. and Soviet Union were now less likely to interfere in any military operation China might launch against India. Again, here you see the play of international relations.

Using coercion to push India into a neutral position sounds counter-intuitive. Doesn't it end up having the opposite effect?

Actually, there is no correlation between China using military coercion to keep India neutral, and India actually becoming more neutral in a conflict or situation between China and either the U.S. or Russia. In fact, my book demonstrates that each time they have brought such pressure on us, India has tilted toward the U.S. or the Soviet Union rather than the other way around.

It is true that in more recent times, China is more sophisticated and utilising not just military pressure but economic pressure, trade, investments, and technology, and we are seeing some of that impacting us today. But the Chinese state still firmly believes that force is a key component in getting you to bend to their will. Therefore they continue to deploy that force towards us. It hasn't worked in the past, it is unlikely to work in the future, and I think they ought to recognise this sooner rather than later.

Read the full interview at: newsth.live/vijaygokhale

EU moves to sanction Iran over Hormuz blockade

Agence France-Presse
BRUSSELS

European Union nations moved on Friday towards imposing sanctions on Iranian officials and others responsible for blocking the Strait of Hormuz, the EU said.

Tehran effectively closed the key shipping lane for global gas and oil in retaliation to U.S.-Israeli strikes launched in February.

Deeming the blockade "contrary to international law", EU governments took a technical step to extend the scope of its existing Iran sanctions, allowing for more individuals to be targeted under it.

"The EU will now be able to introduce further restrictive measures in response to Iran's actions undermining the freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz," the European Council representing EU nations said.

The EU has also imposed sanctions over human rights violations in the country.

Tulsi Gabbard steps down as director of national intelligence

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

Tulsi Gabbard

Tulsi Gabbard resigned as U.S. President Donald Trump's director of national intelligence on Friday, saying she needed to step away as her husband battles cancer. She is the fourth Cabinet official to depart during Mr. Trump's second term.

In her resignation letter, which she posted on social media, Ms. Gabbard said she told Mr. Trump of her decision to leave office on June 30. She said her husband had recently been diagnosed with a rare form of bone cancer and "faces major challenges in the coming weeks and months".

"At this time, I must step away from public service to be by his side and fully support him through this battle," she wrote in the letter, which was earlier reported by *Fox News*.

Mr. Trump, in his own social media post announcing her resignation, said "Tulsi has done an incredible job, and we will miss her." He said her principal deputy, Aaron Lukas, will serve as acting director of national intelligence.

During Mr. Trump's first term, Mr. Lukas was as an intelligence aide to the acting director of national intelligence, Ric Grenel, in 2020. A former policy analyst at the Cato Institute, a libertarian think tank, he also served as deputy senior director for Europe and Russia at the National Security Council in the final year of Mr. Trump's previous administration.

There had been rumblings that Ms. Gabbard would split with Mr. Trump after the President's decision to strike Iran, which caused some division within his administration. Joe Kent, the director of the National Counterterrorism Center, announced his resignation in March, saying he "cannot in good conscience" back the war.

Ms. Gabbard, a veteran and former Democratic congresswoman from Hawaii, built her political name on her opposition to foreign wars. This put her in an awkward position when the U.S. joined Israel in launching attacks on Iran on February 28.

The other departures were Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem, Attorney General Pam Bondi and Labour Secretary Lori Chavez-DeRemer.

Dhaka seeks Hasina's return through legal process, says Minister

Press Trust of India
DHAKA/NEW DELHI

Sheikh Hasina

Bangladesh's Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed has said the government wants former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to return through "legal procedures", reacting to her recent remarks that she hoped to return home "very soon" despite facing a death sentence.

"We want to get her back through legal procedures," Mr. Ahmed, a senior Minister in Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's Cabinet, told presspersons on Thursday, adding that he was not aware of any legal obstacle to Ms. Hasina's return if she wished to do so.

Ms. Hasina has been living in India since August 2024, after her Awami League government was toppled following a student-led uprising.

The subsequent interim administration led by Muhammad Yunus banned the Awami League through an executive order and initiated proceedings against Ms. Hasina in Bangladesh's reconstituted International Crimes Tribunal.

Ms. Hasina was later sentenced to death in absentia by the tribunal in November 2025 – a trial which was criticised by her supporters.

The BNP government, which came to power in February, endorsed the interim administration's decision to ban the Awami League.

Home Minister Ahmed's remarks came a day after Prime Minister Rahman's information affairs adviser Zahedur Rahman said no "extra-judicial measures" would be taken against Ms. Hasina if she returned to Bangladesh.

'Surrender to judiciary'

He said the former Prime Minister would, however, have to "surrender to the judiciary" and face the legal proceedings against her. Local media in Dhaka have cited legal experts saying that the deadline for challenging the tribunal verdict has expired.

In recent interviews with some Indian media outlets, Ms. Hasina said she hoped to return to Bangladesh "very soon" with her "head held high", as she criticised the current political leadership in Bangladesh over alleged democratic backsliding and warned of rising anti-India rhetoric in the country.

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS - TIRUPATI
HEALTH DEPARTMENT, TIRUMALA. **NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS**

Roc.No.TTD-32021(32)/41/2025-HOT-TTD Date.21-05-2026
The Health Department, Tirumala, is inviting the e-Tenders (On-Line) from **21-05-2026 to 06-06-2026** for "Sanitation maintenance, housekeeping services and mechanized cleaning i.e., Road sweeping, collection of garbage, segregation at source, toilet maintenance, vector control measures in Zone-I, Zone-II & Zone-III areas in TTD, Tirumala for a period of 36 months" vide Tender ID 935811, 935920, 936252. For information please contact the **Health Department, TTD, Tirumala** (+91-9866132451) and for details login to **https://apeprocurement.gov.in.**
TTD-40021(31)/1/2026-PRO SEC(Adv.No.54) Date:22-05-2026 **EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

BENGALURU SMART INFRASTRUCTURE LIMITED B-Smile
Office of the Project Engineer-02, Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited No.30/1, 3rd Floor, Thimmaiah Road, Miller Tank Bund Area, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560052
No: PE-02/B-SMILE/P.R/15/2026-27 **Date: 21.05.2026**

CORRIGENDUM

Corrigendum for the Tender No. B-SMILE/PE-2/Tend/02/2026-27 dated 20.05.2026 published in this newspaper on 21.05.2026.
The EMD amount of the above tender notification published in this newspaper on 21.05.2026 by Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited for the works of construction of elevated corridor (flyover) have been wrongly published. The correct EMD amount is given below:
Name of the work: 1. Construction of elevated corridor (flyover) at Konanakunte Cross on Kanakapura Road. (length 1.5 km) .EMD amount as published: **Rs 77.18 Crores.** Amount should be read as : **Rs 77.18 LAKHS**
Name of the work : 2. Construction of elevated corridor (flyover) at Adyar Ananda Bhavan Raghuvanahalli Cross, Kanakapura Road. (length 0.90 km) . EMD amount as published: **Rs 42.11 Crores**. Amount should be read as : **Rs 42.11 LAKHS**. There were no other changes. The error is regretted.

Sd/- Project Engineer-02
Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited (B-SMILE)

F.No.A-12026/9/2020-E-IV
Government of India
Ministry of Jal Shakti
Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation
*****

VACANCY NOTICE
EXTENSION OF LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION

The Vacancy notice published in the Employment News edition 28th March, 2026 – 03rd April, 2026 for filling up the following post in the Narmada Control Authority (NCA), Indore on Deputation basis (including Short-Term Contract) by this office is hereby revised.
2. The Narmada Control Authority is an Autonomous Body functioning under the Administrative Control of Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India.
3. The last date for submission of duly filled applications, which was 11.05.2026, has been further extended by 30 days from the date of publication of this vacancy notice in the Employment News.

S. No.	Name of the post(s)	No. of the post(s)	Pay Matrix (As per 7th CPC)	Place of posting
1.	Member (Environment & Rehabilitation)	01	Level-14 (Rs. 144200–218200/-)	Indore (M.P.)

4. All other terms and conditions of the previous vacancy notice shall remain unchanged. The interested candidates who have not yet applied may submit their applications as per the procedure mentioned in the detailed vacancy notice available on the official website: jalshakti-dowr.gov.in; dopt.gov.in and nca.gov.in.

(Sameer Kumar Munda)
Under Secretary to the Govt. of India

THE NATIONAL SMALL INDUSTRIES CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of India Enterprise)
Corporate Identification No. U74140DL1955GOI002481

Advt. No. NSIC/HR/YP/01/2026

The National Small Industries Corporation Ltd. (The premier Mini-Ratna Government of India Enterprise under Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) invites applications from Young Professionals with suitable domain expertise to be engaged on Contract basis in various fields.
For detailed Job Description, Terms & Conditions and Application Form, please visit Career Section of NSIC website **www.nsic.co.in**. The last date for filling up the online application form is 08.06.2026.

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Special Division, 2nd Floor, 19th Main, 2nd Block, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru-560 010
No: EE/SD/TEND/05/2026-27 Date: 22.05.2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
Short Term Tender Notification (Two cover System)
(Through GOK KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only)

The Executive Engineer (Special Division), BWCC, Bengaluru invites Bids for the following services from reputed Service Provider for the below Works.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1.	Providing Cleaning Staff to BWCC Schools and Colleges With Materials, Drivers and Peons to BWCC Offices of Zone-2 on Outsourced Basis. **Estimate Amount (Inclusive Service Charge): Rs. 2,02,60,129.00, EMD : Rs.3,03,902.00**
2.	Providing Security Guards to BWCC Schools and Colleges of West Zone-2 on Outsourced Basis. **Estimate Amount (Inclusive Service Charge): Rs. 2,71,49,985.00, EMD : Rs.4,07,250.00**
3.	Providing the Manpower Services of Solid Waste Inspectors to BWCC Zone-2. **Estimate Amount (Inclusive Service Charge): Rs. 1,81,34,347.00, EMD : Rs.2,72,015.00**

Calendar of Events : (1) Date of Commencement of Download of Document from kppp website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in: **From 25.05.2026 (2)**Date and Time of Pre-bid Meeting: **On 27.05.2026 at 3:00 P.M. (3)** Last Date and Time for uploading tenders in kpp Portal : **On 03.06.2026, Upto 4:00 P.M. (4)** Date and Time of Opening Technical Bid : **On 04.06.2026 @ 4:30 P.M. (5)** Date and Time of Opening Financial Bid : **On 05.06.2026, @4:30 P.M. (If possible).**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Special Division, BWCC Zone-2

CANDID

'Wasn't bowling well in the first few games, but I got my rhythm back'

VIJAY SONEJI

GT pacer Mohammed Siraj said regaining rhythm was the key to his strong performance against CSK. "The ball is coming out nicely. I sat out most of the games in the World Cup, but I worked hard in the nets. I wasn't bowling well in the first few [IPL] games, but I have got my rhythm back," said Siraj about his Player-of-the-Match show.

ADDING INSULT TO INJURY

CSK captain Ruturaj fined for slow over-rate during loss to GT

FILE PHOTO

CSK captain Ruturaj Gaikwad has been fined after his team maintained a slow over-rate during its IPL match against GT in Ahmedabad on Thursday. "As this was his team's second offence of the season under Article 2.22 of the Code of Conduct, Ruturaj was fined ₹24 lakhs," said an IPL release.

LAID LOW

Raghuvanshi ruled out of IPL due to concussion, fracture

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Kolkata Knight Riders announced that wicketkeeper-batter Angkrish Raghuvanshi had been ruled out of IPL 2026 due to a concussion and fracture to a left-hand finger. The 21-year-old Raghuvanshi sustained the fracture while attempting a catch during Knight Riders' contest against Mumbai Indians in Kolkata on Wednesday.

LOOKING AT POSITIVES

Head coach Ponting throws his weight behind skipper Shreyas

FILE PHOTO: EMMANUAL YOGINI

PBKS captain Shreyas Iyer has struggled for form recently, managing just one 30-plus score in his last five games. But head coach Ricky Ponting threw his weight behind the skipper. "Shreyas has had a very good tournament with the bat. His leadership around the group has been exceptional," Ponting said.

Sunrisers prove too hot for Royal Challengers

Kishan, Abhishek and Klaasen fire on all cylinders to power the Hyderabad side to a mammoth 255; the Bengaluru outfit adopts a safety-first approach, does enough to seal a Qualifier 1 spot

IPL-19

Anirudh Velamuri
HYDERABAD

There was no cautious build-up and respite for the bowlers.

Sunrisers Hyderabad launched into the Royal Challengers Bengaluru attack and never relented, producing a batting exhibition that laid the foundation for its 55-run victory in their IPL clash at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium on Friday.

Yet, in the broader context, the result barely caused a ripple. RCB had done enough to seal a top-of-the-table finish, while SRH remained in third place.

After Sunrisers opted to bat, Abhishek Sharma and Travis Head refused to be intimidated by Bhuvneshwar Kumar – this edition's leading wicket-taker – plundering 25 runs off his first two overs. Head greeted Rasikh Salam with three rasping boundaries before the 26-year-old sent the Australian's off-stump flying with a searing yorker.

Abhishek earned two reprieves in as many overs, courtesy slips by Venkatesh Iyer and substitute Jordan Cox.

The opener was also lucky when Devdutt Padikkal nearly pulled off a spectacular catch running back towards long-on, but the ball brushed his fingertips and slipped out.

The southpaw brought up his maiden half-century against RCB before Cox pouched a miscued hit off Suyash Sharma.

Heinrich Klaasen, who began cautiously, tore into Josh Hazlewood and smacked the pacer for 27 runs in an over. At the other end, Kishan quietly brought up his second half-century of the campaign against RCB.

The efforts helped SRH storm past 200 for the ninth time this season while Klaasen fell after raising his sixth fifty of the 19th edition. Nitish Kumar took over, his cameo leaving RCB with a mountain to climb.

In sizzling form: Kishan and Abhishek carted the RCB bowlers to all parts of the ground. NAGARA GOPAL

The chase began with intent as Venkatesh, opening the innings for the first time since 2023, took on Pat Cummins and moved up a gear once spin was introduced. But, against the run of play, Eshan Malinga broke the first-wicket stand by dismissing Venkatesh. Soon, Virat Kohli perished to a slower ball from Sakib Hussain.

With Rajat Patidar and Padikkal attempting to rebuild, Cummins reintroduced Malinga. The Sri Lankan struck again by removing the left-hander. After Padikkal's departure, RCB shifted towards ensuring a top-two finish. Patidar steered his side past the 166-run mark that confirmed his side a spot in Qualifier 1.

SCOREBOARD

SUNRISERS HYDERABAD
Abhishek Sharma c sub (Cox) b Suyash 56 *(22b, 4x4, 5x6)*, Travis Head b Rasikh 26 *(16b, 5x4)*, Ishan Kishan c Padikkal b Rasikh 79 *(46b, 8x4, 3x6)*, Heinrich Klaasen c Venkatesh b Krunal 51 *(24b, 2x4, 5x6)*, Nitish Kumar (not out) 29 *(12b, 1x4, 3x6)*; Extras (w-14): 14; Total (for four wkts. in 20 overs): 255.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-45 (Head, 3.6 overs), 2-97 (Abhishek, 8.2), 3-210 (Klaasen, 16.2), 4-255 (Kishan, 19.6).

RCB BOWLING
Bhuvneshwar 4-0-51-0, Hazlewood 4-0-55-0, Rasikh 4-0-52-2, Suyash 3-0-36-1, Shepherd 3-0-37-0, Krunal 2-0-24-1.

ROYAL CHALLENGERS
Venkatesh Iyer c Abhishek b Malinga 44 *(19b, 4x4, 4x6)*, Virat Kohli c Smaran b Sakib 15 *(11b, 2x4)*, Devdutt Padikkal c Abhishek b Malinga 21 *(14b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Rajat Patidar c Smaran b Head 56 *(39b, 6x4, 1x6)*, Krunal Pandya (not out) 41 *(31b, 5x4)*, Tim David **(Impact Player for Suyash)** (not out) 15 *(7b, 1x4, 1x6)*; Extras (lb-2, nb-1, w-5): 8; Total (for four wkts. in 20 overs): 200.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-60 (Venkatesh, 4.3), 2-74 (Kohli, 5.5), 3-94 (Padikkal, 8.5), 4-178 (Patidar, 18.2).

SUNRISERS BOWLING
Cummins 4-0-48-0, Malinga 4-0-33-2, Shivang 2-0-32-0, Sakib 4-0-31-1, Harshal **(Impact Player for Salil)** 4-0-37-0, Nitish Kumar 1-0-10-0, Head 1-0-7-1.
Toss: Sunrisers.
Player-of-the-Match: Kishan.
Sunrisers won by 55 runs.

RCB, GT in Qualifier 1
Royal Challengers will take on Titans at Dharamshala on May 26 while Sunrisers will play in the Eliminator at New Chandigarh on May 27

Key figure: PBKS will hope that Connolly extends his good run with the bat. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

PBKS needs to beat LSG, but its fate rests on other results

Nigamanth P.
LUCKNOW

The last time Punjab Kings faced the now-eliminated Lucknow Super Giants on April 19, it was the team to beat and was in the middle of an unconquered run.

Cut to the present, the Shreyas Iyer-led side has suffered six consecutive losses. It now faces a must-win situation against LSG here on Saturday.

Punjab's season has been a tale of contrasting departments. Its batting has been terrifying. With over 2,400 runs and a tournament-leading 156 sixes, PBKS possesses the firepower to overwhelm anyone with the bat.

At the top, Priyansh Arya strikes at an absurd rate of 212.86, while Prabhsimran Singh relentlessly attacks the PowerPlay.

Meanwhile, the breakout brilliance of Cooper Connolly (473 runs) anchors the middle order, with Shreyas Iyer providing stability.

However, Punjab's Achilles' heel is a bowling attack that has been violently exposed.

Its pace battery is bleeding. Premier pacer Arshdeep Singh, despite taking 14 wickets, is conceding at an economy of 9.78. Even Lockie Ferguson and Marco Jansen, its rotating overseas options, have struggled for consistency in the death overs. Without a disciplined defensive spearhead, Punjab is failing to contain teams in high-pressure finishes.

Lucknow, playing purely for pride, remains highly volatile.

Free from pressure, LSG's opening pair of Mitchell Marsh and Josh Inglis – coming off a blistering 109-run stand – will look to launch a fearless PowerPlay assault to shatter Punjab's fragile defensive lines.

For Punjab, surviving this initial onslaught is only the first step in a much larger, agonising battle for self-preservation. A win on Saturday won't guarantee qualification for the 2025 finalist.

Its catastrophic losing streak has stripped it of control over its destiny. Even if PBKS reaches 15 points, it needs Mumbai Indians to defeat Rajasthan Royals. If that happens and Kolkata Knight Riders also finishes on 15 points, PBKS' superior Net Run Rate could be its ultimate saving grace to sneak into the playoffs.

Ponting rues Kings' inability to deliver in crunch moments

Nigamanth P.
LUCKNOW

Nine 200-plus totals conceded and six consecutive losses have left Punjab Kings facing a complex qualification scenario in IPL 2026.

Gearing up for a do-or-die fixture against the Lucknow Super Giants at the Ekana Stadium here on Saturday, PBKS head coach Ricky Ponting rued the team's inability to deliver in crunch moments.

"Yes, we've lost six games in a row. But there have been very few games where we've been outplayed. We got into winning positions in most but haven't been able to close them out," he said.

A key factor in the team's decline has been Arshdeep Singh's dip in form compared to last season. However, Ponting defended his frontline pacer, noting that the shortest format had shifted drastically in favour of batters.

"In the last three games, Arshdeep has been getting back to his best," Ponting said. "He didn't pick up wickets in the first three games, but since then, he's been pretty consistent."

Ponting spoke about the high-scoring nature of the tournament to contextualise the bowling struggles. "We have conceded nine 200-plus totals, but we've made 200s eight times. The IPL has become a much higher-scoring tournament, and bowlers' figures reflect that. I've been extremely happy with how Arshdeep has bowled."

LSG comes into the game with nothing to lose. It already played a part in Chennai Super Kings' exit and will look to do the same against the visitor.

"We haven't found the ideal winning formula this season so far. So, hopefully moving into tomorrow, we can do that, and we can put on one final good show for our fans at home," said LSG assistant coach Lance Klusener.

Today's match

LSG vs PUNJAB KINGS

Lucknow, 7.30 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Played: 7

LSG 3 | PBKS 4

PREVIOUS MEETING

PBKS won by 54 runs, 2026

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 & JIOHOTSTAR

Points table

	M	W	L	NR	PTS	NRR
Royal Challengers (Q)	14	9	5	0	18	0.783
Gujarat Titans (Q)	14	9	5	0	18	0.695
Sunrisers Hyderabad (Q)	14	9	5	0	18	0.524
Rajasthan Royals	13	7	6	0	14	0.083
Punjab Kings	13	6	6	1	13	0.227
Kolkata Knight Riders	13	6	6	1	13	0.011
Chennai Super Kings (E)	14	6	8	0	12	-0.345
Delhi Capitals	13	6	7	0	12	-0.871
Mumbai Indians (E)	13	4	9	0	8	-0.510
Lucknow Super Giants (E)	13	4	9	0	8	-0.702

Q: Qualified | **E:** Eliminated

More questions than answers for CSK

Sankar Narayanan E.H.
AHMEDABAD

Chennai Super Kings' IPL 2026 review makes for grim reading.

For a franchise built on legacy and consistency, the five-time champion was let down by its muddled tactics.

Ruturaj Gaikwad's men were always behind the eight ball in their pursuit of a top-four spot, missing the playoffs for the third consecutive year.

The campaign had a turbulent take-off and a terrible landing, bookended by three straight losses at the start and finish. It certainly didn't help that the team's growing injury list was in a constant tussle with the number of wins.

CSK, which finished on 12 points, rarely made optimum use of whoever was fit and available, evidenced by its reluctance to play Akeal Hosein. Five of CSK's six victories came in the seven matches that the left-arm spinner took part in. The excuse of not having an overseas spot doesn't hold water as Super Kings played some games with three foreigners.

Super Kings had another forgettable season. ANI

Head coach Stephen Fleming never cracked the Impact Player rule. The most baffling deployment of the substitute came when Sarfaraz Khan was hastily sent in to bat in the fifth over of the first innings against Gujarat Titans after CSK had lost only two wickets.

Timid approach

Ruturaj's timid approach (337 runs, 123.44 strike-rate) not only made CSK's PowerPlay powerless but also put unnecessary pressure on Sanju Samson.

The journey of the ₹14.20 crore youngsters, Kartik Sharma and Prashant Veer, couldn't have been more different. While the wicketkeeper-batter was given a long run at No. 4 (295 runs in 11 innings), the all-rounder batted too low (90 runs off 67 balls in five innings) and hardly bowled (two overs).

Anshul Kamboj, who was the first to take 10 wickets in the death overs, also holds the dubious record of being the only one to concede 500 runs in the season so far.

Then there was the M.S. Dhoni saga. The 44-year-old could have become the fourth player to feature in all IPL seasons, but he did not play and rarely travelled with the team.

The calf injury, supposed to sideline him for two weeks, took time to heal before a sore thumb delayed his return.

When asked if CSK was hopeful of Dhoni playing IPL 2027, bowling coach Eric Simons replied: "Are you seriously asking me that question? Only M.S. will know when he's ready and he'll decide in the best interest of the team."

After the season it has endured, the Chennai outfit will have more questions than answers.

WORLD CUP SQUADS

Tuchel leaves out Palmer, Foden

LONDON: Cole Palmer and Phil Foden were among a number of high-profile players left out of Thomas Tuchel's World Cup squad announced on Friday. Real Madrid's Trent Alexander-Arnold was also omitted, with Saudi-based Al-Ahli striker Ivan Toney the surprise inclusion. Erling Haaland and Martin Odegaard headline Norway's squad which was announced in a video by the country's King Harald V on Thursday.

The squads:

ENGLAND: Goalkeepers: Jordan Pickford, Dean Henderson, James Trafford.

Defenders: Reece James, Tino Livramento, Dan Burn, Marc Guehi, John Stones, Nico O'Reilly, Ezri Konsa, Jarell Quansah, Djed Spence.

Midfielders: Declan Rice, Elliot Anderson, Jude Bellingham, Jordan Henderson, Kobbie Mainoo, Morgan Rogers, Eberechi Eze.

Forwards: Harry Kane, Ivan Toney, Ollie Watkins, Bukayo Saka, Noni Madueke, Marcus Rashford, Anthony Gordon.

NORWAY: Goalkeepers: Orjan Haskjold Nyland, Sander Tangvik, Egil Selvik.

Defenders: Kristoffer Vassbakk Kopp Ajer, Leo Skiri Ostigard, David Moller Wolfe, Fredrik Andre Bjorkan, Marcus Holmgren Pedersen, Torbjorn Lysaker Heggem, Sondre Klingen Langas, Henrik Saelebakke Falchener, Julian Ryerson.

Midfielders: Morten Thorsby, Patrick Berg, Sander Berge, Martin Odegaard, Fredrik Aursnes, Kristian Thorstvedt, Thelonious Aasgaard, Antonio Eromonsele Nordby Nusa, Andreas Raedergard Schjelderup, Oscar Bobb, Jens Petter Hauge.

Forwards: Alexander Sorloth, Erling Braut Haaland, Jorgen Strand Larsen.

Vijay Shankar leaves domestic, IPL cricket

The 35-year-old, who last played for India in the 2019 ODI World Cup, believes he still has cricket left in him; says he doesn't have many regrets

Mixed bag: Vijay Shankar had his fair share of ups and downs during the journey. FILE PHOTOS

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

Former India player Vijay Shankar announced his retirement from "domestic and IPL cricket" on Friday.

The 35-year-old played 12 ODIs and nine T20Is and last donned the national colours at the 2019 50-over World Cup.

The all-rounder made 77 First Class appearances, scoring 4,253 runs and taking 43 wickets. He also featured in 78 IPL matches while representing Chennai Super Kings, Delhi Capitals (Delhi Daredevils), Sunrisers Hyderabad and Gujarat Titans.

"After 15 years, I felt I needed a new challenge and wanted to try opportunities overseas. I still have a few years of cricket left in me," Vijay Shankar told *The Hindu*.

"When I started playing cricket, the dream was to get a Tamil Nadu cap. From there, going on to play for India in two formats was a great journey. I want to thank my coach, S. Balaji, and my family for their constant support."

As skipper, Vijay Shankar led Tamil Nadu to the Vijay Hazare Trophy (one-day), Deodhar Trophy (both 2017) and Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 (2021-22) titles. His last season in domestic cricket was for Tripura in 2025-26.

Constant injuries hurt his chances of playing at the highest level for longer. "Obviously, at that time, it was difficult. But in hindsight, I don't have many regrets because some of those injuries were beyond my control. I am happy with my journey."

Speaking about his most memorable moments, Vijay Shankar felt that turning out for India in the World Cup clash against Pakistan was a highlight of his career. His selection for the quadrennial event was contentious as he pipped Ambati Rayudu for a spot in the squad. The then chairman of the selection committee, M.S.K. Prasad, had justified his inclusion by calling him a three-dimensional cricketer.

Rayudu later quipped that he had "ordered 3D glasses to watch the World Cup" in reference to Vijay Shankar making the cut. The TN cricketer recalled receiving hate and vitriol online after that comment from Rayudu.

On the social media post where he announced his retirement, Vijay Shankar referenced those tough times and how he moved on from them. He signed off as 'Your 3D Cricketer'.

Guardiola... a serial winner. REUTERS

Guardiola to leave Man City after fruitful 10-year stint

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

Pep Guardiola will leave Manchester City with an unparalleled legacy as a manager who reshaped English football during a decade of relentless success.

The club announced on Friday that the Spaniard would be leaving Manchester after the final game of the season, a year before the end of his contract.

The 55-year-old arrived in England in 2016 as the most sought-after coach in world football following golden stints at Barcelona and Bayern Munich.

During his 10 years at the Etihad, he has turned City into a ruthless winning machine in the world's richest league.

Guardiola collected 20 trophies, including six Premier League titles and an unprecedented four in a row from 2021 to 2024.

In 2023, he won the first Champions League trophy in City's history – the third of his career – in addition to the Premier League and FA Cup, matching the treble he won at Barcelona.

Ivashka loses his cool but not the semifinal

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

A meltdown notwithstanding, Ilya Ivashka managed to come out on top in his semifinal outing against Hamish Stewart at the S.M. Krishna Memorial Open ATP Challenger here on Friday.

Trailing 3-4 in the second set, Ivashka was furious when the chair umpire overruled a line call in favour of Stewart.

Ivashka, who had hit the last shot of the rally into the net, was convinced that the deuce point must be replayed. The umpire, however, awarded the point to Stewart, citing that the original 'out' call from the linesperson did not affect Ivashka's shot.

Regrouping: Ivashka overcame his meltdown and dropping of a set to beat Stewart. K. MURALI KUMAR

"No! No! No chance!," Ivashka screamed at the top of his lungs.

Ivashka sat in his chair and demanded to see the supervisor, who agreed with the umpire's decision.

Ivashka reluctantly went back to the court, going on to lose the second set 3-6.

The Belarus player exchanged verbal volleys with the supervisor – seated in the stands – on his way out of the court.

The short break before the third set allowed Ivashka to regroup. The 32-year-old stayed focused on the job, completing a 6-3, 3-6, 6-2 win over third seed Stewart.

Ivashka will face fourth seed Petr Bar Biryukov, who overcame Alastair Gray 3-6, 6-4, 7-6(5), in the final on Friday.

Adil-Sasikumar advance

In the doubles semifinals, the Indian pair of Adil Kalyanpur and Mukund Sasikumar took out Charles Barry (Ireland) and Joshua Charlton (Australia) 6-4, 6-3.

Niki Poonacha and Saketh Myneni, who won the Karnataka Open last week, fell to Biryukov and Grigoriy Lomakin 3-6, 4-6.

MALABAR CANCER CENTRE
(POST GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF ONCOLOGY SCIENCES & RESEARCH)
NABH & NABL Accredited (an autonomous Institution under Government of Kerala
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Fax: 91 490 2355880,Email: mcctly@gmail.com, Web: www.mcc.kerala.gov.in
540/MCC/3107/2025/E3/GAD/221.05.2026

EXISTING AND ARISING VACANCIES(Permanent)
Assistant Professor-Scale of pay–101500-167400, Level 12of 7th CPC

1. Nuclear Medicine, 2. Clinical Haematology& 3. Radiodiagnosis/Radiology
Online Applications are invited for the aforementioned posts on permanent basis. The last date for submitting online applications are 27.06.2026 5PM.
No.E 347611 MCC/430/2024-E3-GAD/129/130 &E 7341 MCC/224/2022-GAD-E4/131 21/05/2026

EXISTING AND ARISING VACANCIES(Contract)
Online applications are invited for the post of Internal Audit Officer, Junior System Analyst, Staff Nurse, Occupational Therapist, Assistant Pharmacist, Physiotherapist Resident Staff Nurse, Resident Pharmacist in MCC(PGIOSR) on Contract Basis.
No.E 347611 MCC/430/2024-E3-GAD/130 21/05/2026
Online applications are invited for the post of Lecturer-INSeR, Assistant Professor-INSeR, Professor-INSeR in MCC(PGIOSR)on Contract Basis.
The last date for submitting online application is 03/06/2026 at 12.00 PM.
* MCC(PGIOSR) invites applications for Senior Resident(Medical) in Clinical Hematology& Medical Oncology, Imageology and Surgical oncology.
* MCC(PGIOSR) invites applications for Non-Stipendiary Training Programs in various disciplines.
Details are available in mcc.kerala.gov.in/www.mcconline.in Sd/- Director

APPOINTMENT

भारतीय समुद्री विश्वविद्यालय
INDIAN MARITIME UNIVERSITY
(A Central University under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Government of India)
Established by an Act of the Parliament in 2008

Advt. No. IMU-HQ/R/Contract/2026/01 Date:23.05.2026

Engagement of Centre Director (C-PRiMeS) (on contract)

Applications are invited from Indian Nationals for the following post on contract basis in Indian Maritime University (IMU). Interested candidates may submit their applications online through the link available at https://www.imu.edu.in/imunew/recruitment.

S. No.	Name of the Post	No. of Post	Place of Posting	Monthly Remuneration
1.	Centre Director for the Centre for Policy Research in Maritime Studies (C-PRiMeS) on contract	01	Chennai	Academic Pay level-14 as per the 7th CPC Pay Matrix + Other applicable allowances

The post shall be filled on contract basis initially for a period of 02 years which may be further extended up to 3 years, one year at a time, subject to satisfactory performance and requirement of the University.
IMU reserves the right not to fill up the post advertised (or) cancel the engagement process at any stage.

Important dates:
Opening date for submission of online application : 23.05.2026
Closing date for submission of online application : 14.06.2026

Women candidates are encouraged to apply

For further details regarding the eligibility criteria: i.e., Age, Educational Qualifications, Experience, etc., please visit https://www.imu.edu.in/imunew/recruitment

Sd/-
Registrar

KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT
M.S.Building, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru- 560001.

No. RD/383/RME/2025 Date:22.05.2026

Notification regarding engagement of Urban Town Planner and Urban Designer under the KWSRP

Subject: Recruitment of Chief/Lead Urban Town Planner/Environment Planner and Chief/Lead Urban Designer - Urban Flood Modelling team for Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC) under the Karnataka Water Security and Resilience Program (KWSRP).

The World Bank-funded Karnataka Water Security and Resilience Program (KWSRP) is being implemented across the State. The overarching objective of the Program is to enhance disaster resilience through a combination of structural and non-structural measures. The initiative seeks to develop climate-resilient infrastructure to mitigate the impacts of floods and droughts, while also strengthening disaster risk governance and resilience mechanisms.

The Revenue Department (Disaster Management) Government of Karnataka, invites applications from qualified and experienced professionals for the following positions:

i. Chief/ Lead Urban Town Planner Environmental Planner (1 position)
ii. Chief/ Lead Urban Designer (1 position)

The detailed terms of reference, eligibility criteria, and other conditions for engagement of the above positions are available in the Terms of Reference (ToR) and may be seen on the KSNDMC website: https://www.ksndmc.org/default.aspx

Note:

a. Applications, along with the relevant supporting documents, should be submitted by email to jsrdssp@gmail.com, **latest by 06.06.2026.**
b. Incomplete applications will not be considered. The Revenue Department (Disaster Management) reserves the right to reject any application without assigning a reason.
c. The qualified candidates will he shortlisted and called for interview for final selection.

For any queries contact - The Joint Secretary, Revenue Department (KAT, SSP & PP). Ph: 080-2203 2010.

Sd/-
(G Venkalesh)
Joint Secretary to the Government
Revenue Department
(KAT, SSP and PP)

DIPR/CP/JA/782/2026-27

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- Financial Transformation
- Changemaker of the Year
- Young Changemaker

ADMISSION NOTICE
POST GRADUATE ENTRANCE TEST- 2026

Applications (Online) are invited from the eligible candidates on prescribed form to appear Post Graduate Entrance Test (PGET)- 2026 for admission into following Post Graduate Courses & Institutes

SWAMI VIVEKANAND NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF REHABILITATION TRAINING AND RESEARCH (SVNIRTAR)
Olatpur, P.O: Bairoi, Dist-Cuttack-754010 (Odisha)
Website : https://svnirtar.nic.in, E-Mail: svnirtarpget@gmail.com
Courses Offered: 1. Master of Physiotherapy 2. Master of Occupational Therapy 3. Master in Prosthetics & Orthotics

PANDIT DEENDAYAL UPADHYAYA NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR PERSONS WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITIES (PDUNIPPD)
4, Vishnu Digamber Marg, New Delhi - 110002
Website : https://pdunippd.nic.in, E-Mail: diriph@nic.in
Course Offered: 1. Master in Prosthetics & Orthotics

ALI YAVAR JUNG NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SPEECH AND HEARING DISABILITIES (DIVYANGJAN) (AYJNISHD)
K.C. Marg, Bandra (W) Reclamation, Mumbai – 400 050
&
REGIONAL CENTRE, SECUNDERABAD
Manovikas Nagar, Secunderabad-500009
Website: https://ayjnishd.nic.in, E-Mail: ayjnihh-mum@nic.in
Course Offered: 1. Master of Science in Audiology (M.Sc. Audiology)

Institutes under DEPwD (Divyangjan),
Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt. of India

Eligibility: The Candidate should Pass Bachelor of Physiotherapy for MPT, Bachelor of Occupational Therapy for MOT, BPO/ B.Sc. (PO) for MPO and BASLP for M.Sc. Audiology Courses.

Starting of online publication of Information Brochure and Application form	: 20.05.2026
Closing date of online receipt of Application form	: 19.06.2026
Date of Post Graduate Entrance Test	: 12.07.2026

For details Log on to: https://admission.svnirtar.nic.in

Sd/-
Director Cum Chairman,
PGET- 2026

INBRIEF

Carrick given permanent deal as Man United manager

Manchester United on Friday rewarded Michael Carrick with a permanent deal as head coach for guiding the club to a third-placed finish in the Premier League. "We are delighted to announce Michael Carrick will continue as our head coach, having signed a new contract," United said in a statement on Friday.

Ronaldo finally wins a major trophy with Al-Nassr

Cristiano Ronaldo won a major trophy with Al-Nassr when his side clinched the Saudi Pro League title in Riyadh on Thursday. He scored a brace in the 4-1 win over Damac as Al-Nassr finished with 86 points from 34 matches, two points more than Al-Hilal. Ronaldo struck his 27th and 28th league goals of the season in the second half while Sadio Mane and Kingsley Coman scored on either side of halftime.

Ashmita goes down fighting in Malaysia Masters quarterfinal

India's Ashmita Chaliha produced a spirited performance before going down to World No. 23 Line Hojmark Kjaersfeldt of Denmark in the quarterfinals of the Malaysia Masters Super 500 badminton tournament in Kuala Lumpur on Friday. Returning after an eight-month rehabilitation following a medial meniscus tear in her right knee, the 71st-ranked Indian lost 23-21, 18-21, 11-21 to the eighth seed in a contest that lasted a little over an hour.

Sweety Kujur to lead India in under-18 women's Asia Cup

Sweety Kujur was on Friday named captain of the 18-member Indian women's under-18 squad for the Asia Cup hockey tournament to be held in Kakamigahara, Japan, from May 29 to June 6.

The squad: Goalkeepers: Mahak Parihar and Khili Kumari; **Defenders:** Sugan Sanga, Nilam Topno, Rubina Baxla, Kiran Ekka and Sulochani; **Midfielders:** Shruti Kumari, Diya, Sneha Davde, Rashmeen Kaur, Nammi Geetashree and Pushpa Manjhi; **Forwards:** Nousheen Naz, Sweety Kujur (Capt.), Priyanka Minz, Sandeepa Kumari and Nancy Saroha.

LIVE TELECAST

Archery World Cup: Sony Sports Ten 1 & LIV, 11.30 a.m. & 4.30 p.m.

IFL: Sony Sports Ten 5 & LIV, 6.30 p.m.

IPL: Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 7.30 p.m.

Formula One: Canadian GP (Sprint Race), F1 TV, F1 TV Pro App & FanCode, 9.30 p.m.; Qualifying, 1.30 a.m. (Sunday)

Serie A: DAZN, 9.30 p.m. & 12.15 a.m. (Sunday)

Ancy too good for Shaili in long jump

Deepak runs a well-planned race, going into the lead in the last 70m, to claim his maiden 10,000m title; Ravina claims the women's event

FEDERATION CUP

Y.B. Sarangi
RANCHI

Animesh Kujur and Gurindervir Singh lowered the National 100m record twice, while Asian Games silver medallist long jumper Ancy Sojan rewrote the meet record on the opening day of the Federation athletics meet at the Birsa Munda Stadium (Morabadi) on Friday.

In the conducive evening session, Gurindervir clocked 10.17 to break Kujur's National record in the semifinals. Within minutes, displaying healthy rivalry, Kujur dashed to regain his record with a mark of 10.15 and attained the Commonwealth Games qualifying mark.

Ancy and her close rival Shaili Singh also exhibited another fine episode of rivalry. Responding to Shaili's first jump of 6.38m, Ancy logged 6.47 before consistently achieving five 6.5m-plus jumps, including her fourth (6.75m) to erase Shaili's meet record (6.64m) and win the gold with her personal best. However, she fell short of the CWG qualifying mark by nine cm.

"My first target was to perform without a jump foul. I aim for the Commonwealth (qualification mark)," said Ancy.

Golden leap: Ancy's fourth jump of 6.75m erased Shaili's meet record of 6.64m. RITU RAJ KONWAR

Deepak and Ravina ran to 10,000m glory. RITU RAJ KONWAR

Deepak Bhatt ran a well-planned race, going into the lead in the last 70m, to claim his maiden 10,000m title. Vibhaskar Kumar recorded a stunning 10.36 in the men's 100m heats and qualified for the Asian under-23 championships.

In the decathlon high jump event, Tejaswin Shankar achieved 2.25m to surpass the CWG mark (2.22m).

The results (finals): Men: 10000m (CWG Q mark 27:39.03): 1. Deepak Bhatt (Utk) 29:42.93, 2. Sailesh Kushwaha (Kar) 29:57.56, 3. Prashant Choudhary (UP) 30:36.97. **Hammer throw (CWG Q mark 73.09m):** 1. Ashish Jakhar (SSCB) 68.52m, 2. Damneet Singh (Rel.) 67.62m, 3. Ajay Kumar (Har) 64.93m. **3000m steeplechase (CWG Q mark 8:30.26):** 1. Balkishan (Har) 8:56.01, 2. Sharuk Khan (UP) 8:56.63, 3. Sunil Joliya Jinabhai (Guj) 8:58.38. **Women: 10000m (CWG Q mark 31:14.14):** 1. Ravina Gayakwad (Mah) 35:40.98, 2. Soniya (Utk) 36:16.22, 3. Aarti Pawara (Mah) 36:24.79. **Long jump (CWG Q mark 6.84m):** 1. Ancy Sojan (Navy) 6.75m (MR, Old 6.64, Shaili Singh, 2025), 2. Shaili Singh (Anju Bobby George Academy) 6.58m, 3. Bhavani Yadav (NCOE Bengaluru) 6.39m. **3000m steeplechase (CWG Q mark 9:27.41):** 1. Ankita Dhyani (Utk) 9:48.16, 2. Prachi Devkar (IOCL) 10:16.29, 3. Anju (Har) 10:28.23. **Discus (CWG Q mark 56.85m):** 1. Seema (JSW) 57.29m, 2. Nidhi Rani (Har) 55.05m, 3. Krishna Jayasankar (Rel.) 55.00m.

KSCA to increase spectator capacity at Chinnaswamy Stadium

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) is keen to redevelop the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in order to increase the spectator capacity.

"One of the reasons why the IPL final was moved from Bengaluru to Ahmedabad could have been the seating capacity," KSCA President Venkatesh Prasad said at the launch event of the Maharaja Trophy and Maharani Trophy here on Friday.

"We had close to 28 architects – from across the globe – showing interest in redesigning and redeveloping the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium. We are in the process of shortlisting the final team of architects," Prasad revealed.

The former India pacer added that new LED lights will be installed at the Chinnaswamy Stadium, Srikantadatta Narasimha Raja Wadeyar Cricket Stadium (Mysuru) and KSCA Stadium (Hubballi).

The 2026 Maharaja Trophy, KSCA's flagship T20 tournament, will be held in Mysuru and Hubballi. "Keeping in mind the condition of pitches, the tournament will be conducted in three phases. Phase one will be held in Mysuru, then we move to Hubballi, and come back to Mysuru for the final leg," said Santosh Menon, KSCA Hony. Secretary.

The 2026 Maharaja Trophy, will be held in Mysuru and Hubballi; the Maharani Trophy women's tournament will be a four-team affair, with other details expected to be announced in a few days

The six-team tournament will commence on June 20, and the final will be held on July 12.

Each of the franchises can select between 16 to 18 players per squad, including two catchment area players. "To ensure that there is no compromise on the quality of players, they will be picked by the KSCA selection committee. We will give the franchises a pool of 130 to 150 to choose their teams. Nobody outside this pool will be allowed to participate in the tournament. Even the catchment area players have to undergo the scrutiny of the selection committee," Santosh said.

This edition of the Maharaja Trophy features two new team owners – Mangaluru (owned by Klene Paks Ltd.) and Shivamogga (ICS Mobile Pvt. Ltd.).

The Maharani Trophy women's tournament will be a four-team affair, and more details are expected in a few days.

The 2026 Maharaja Trophy teams (owners in brackets): Hubballi (Jindal Steels), Mangaluru (Klene Paks Ltd.), Shivamogga (ICS Mobile Pvt. Ltd.), Bengaluru (Kalyani Motors), Raichur (Micon Engineers Hubli Pvt. Ltd.), and Mysore (Natural & Essential Oils Pvt. Ltd.).

Russell hopes to halt Antonelli's winning streak

FORMULA ONE

Associated Press
MONTREAL

An upgraded car and a "painful" reminder not to lose sight of the Formula One fundamentals could be George Russell's path back to the front of the field at the Canadian GP.

Russell's fourth-place finish at the last race in Miami handed his Mercedes teammate Kimi Antonelli a 20-point lead in the drivers' standings after four outings. The 19-year-old Italian is currently on a three-race winning streak.

Antonelli's lead grew in Miami after McLaren, Ferrari and Red Bull brought upgrades that helped them fight for the podium places.

It is too early to talk about the title in just the fifth round but a fourth win in a row would put Antonelli in an exclusive club. Every driver who has won four or more consecutive GPs has been an F1 champion at some point in his career.

History, though, offers some encouragement to Russell. The one time that a driver won four consecutive races in a season but not the title came in 2016 when Lewis Hamilton was beaten by his then Mercedes teammate Nico Rosberg.

Caruana beats Pragg on dramatic day

CHESS

Press Trust of India
BUCHAREST

R. Praggnanandhaa lost his first game in the Super Chess Classic after being defeated by Fabiano Caruana in a dramatic seventh round of the tournament, which is a part of the Grand Chess Tour, here.

On a day when Jorden Van Foreest benefitted from the withdrawal of Alireza Firouzja, world championship challenger Javokhir Sindarov put it across overnight leader Vincent Keymer. With two rounds still to come, Keymer was joined by Foreest and Caruana in the lead on 4.5 points while Anish Giri follows the leaders a half point behind. Pragg remained on 3.5 points in the company of Maxime Vachier-Lagrave, Wesley So and Sindarov. Deac Bogdan-Daniel is on 2.5 points.

The results (round 7): Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (3.5) drew with Deac Bogdan-Daniel (2.5); R. Praggnanandhaa (3.5) lost to Fabiano Caruana (4.5); Javokhir Sindarov (3.5) bt Vincent Keymer (4.5); Jorden Van Foreest (4.5) w/o Alireza Firouzja (1); Anish Giri (3) drew with Wesley So (3.5).

Geneva Open: Yuki-Michael duo enters men's doubles summit clash

Press Trust of India
GENEVA

India's Yuki Bhambri locked his first ATP final of the season when he and his New Zealand partner Michael Venus advanced to the men's doubles title clash of the Geneva Open with a 7-5, 6-3 win over Czech pair Petr Rikl and Adam Pavlasek on Friday.

They will now face the Romain Arneodo and Marc Polmans in the title clash.

Prokofiev may score an encore

BENGALURU: Prokofiev, who is in fine nick, may score an encore in the Col. Desraj Urs Trophy (1,600m), the main event of the races to be held here on Saturday (May 23).
False rails (width about 2.5m from 1,600m to the winning post) will be in position.

1 ROYAL TERN PLATE (1,200m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 2.30 p.m.: 1. Bright Thunder (6) Akshay K 56, 2. Euro Star (1) Vaibhav 56, 3. On The Rise (4) Pavan 54.5, 4. Osaka (2) Suraj 54.5, 5. Spark Of Life (5) Trevor 54.5 and 6. Strong And Light (3) M. Prabhakaran 54.5.
1. OSAKA, 2. BRIGHT THUNDER

2 MOONLIGHT ROMANCE PLATE (Div. II), 1,400m, rated 00 to 25, 3.00: 1. Kazing (10) Sandesh 61, 2. Imperial Star (5) A.A. Vikrant 60, 3. LG's Script (7) Vaibhav 59.5, 4. Femme Fatale (8) P. Mani 59, 5. Anzac Parade (6) Rayan 58.5, 6. Blue Saint (3) B.L. Paswan 58.5, 7. Ransomware (9) Kiran Rai 58.5, 8. Shock And Awe (1) Darshan 58, 9. Martha (2) M. Rajesh K 57.5 and 10. My Visionary (4) Jagadeesh 51.
1. LG'S SCRIPT, 2. KAZING, 3. SHOCK AND AWE

3 SUPERVITE PLATE (Div. II), 1,400m, rated 20 to 45, 4-y-o & over, 3.30: 1. Fils De France (9) Antony 60, 2. Blue Storm (1) Pavan 59.5, 3. Lena (5) Trevor 56.5, 4. The Golden Dream (6) Kiran Rai 56.5, 5. Divo (3) Jagadeesh 55, 6. Sea Diamond (7) Pranil K 54.5, 7. Queendom (8) Akshay K 53, 8. Superhero (4) Aditya W 52.5 and 9. Reine Etoile (2) Vinod Shinde 52.
1.QUEENDOM, 2. LENA, 3. BLUE STORM

4 K.N. GURUSWAMY MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,400m), rated 40 to 65, 4.00: 1. Aquastic (11) Akshay K 60, 2. Invincible (10) M. Rajesh K 56.5, 3. Perfect Attitude (2) Antony 56.5, 4. Sassy Sarah (6) Mukesh K 56, 5. Aherne (7) Neeraj 55.5, 6. Moon Star (5) Suraj 55, 7. Dynamic Force (9) Arul J.H 54, 8. Alfonsine (8) Trevor 53.5, 9. Eclipse Pulse (4) Ashhad Asbar 53, 10. Thrill Of Brazil (1) Jagadeesh 53 and 11. Angelisa (3) Yash 51.5.
1. ALFONSINE, 2. ANGELISA, 3. AQUASTIC

5 COL. DESRAJ URS TROPHY (1,600m), rated 60 to 85, 4.30: 1. Sea The Sun (3) S. Sachin 62, 2. Inspire (7) Antony 57.5, 3. Prokofiev (6) Trevor 57.5, 4. Tolkien (2) Akshay K 53.5, 5. Ice Of Fire (5) Ashhad Asbar 50.5, 6. Margaretta (1) G. Vivek 50.5 and 7. Magnus (4) Neeraj 50.
1. PROKOFIEV, 2. TOLKIEN

6 MOONLIGHT ROMANCE PLATE (Div. I), 1,400m, rated 00 to 25, 5.00: 1. Detective Conan (2) Arul J.H 62.5, 2. Larson (8) R. Pradeep 61.5, 3. Mandate (3) Antony 61.5, 4. Razzmatazz (5) Aditya W 61, 5. Versace (9) Indrajeet K 60.5, 6. CR Seven (6) M. Rajesh K 59.5, 7. Infinite Spirit (7) Vishal 59.5, 8. Rising Form (4) Abdul Fazal 59 and 9. Dr. Colchester (1) Jagadeesh 54.5.
1. MANDATE, 2. RAZZMATAZZ, 3. VERSACE

7 SUPERVITE PLATE (Div. I), 1,400m, rated 20 to 45, 4-y-o & over, 5.30: 1. Flight Of Fancy (1) Aditya W 62.5, 2. Sapporo (8) Pavan 62, 3. Zilfee (4) Trevor 60, 4. Stravinsky (3) M. Rajesh K 59.5, 5. Mister Brown (6) Arvind K 58.5, 6. Supreme Success (5) Suraj 57, 7. Adelanto (7) Kiran Rai 56.5 and 8. Carat Love (2) K. Mukesh Kumar 56.5.
1. SAPPORO, 2. SUPREME SUCCESS, 3. FLIGHT OF FANCY
Day's best: **ALFONSINE**
Double: **OSAKA - QUEENDOM**
Jkt: 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7; Mini Jkt: 4, 5, 6 and 7; Tr (i): 2, 3 and 4; (ii): 5, 6 and 7.

Vihaan.

Vihaan wins IGU Southern India Junior golf

Sports Bureau

Haryana's Vihaan Jain held off a gritty challenge from Nilofer Sivamoorthy of Tamil Nadu, securing the IGU Southern India Junior Boys Golf Championship title at the Coimbatore Golf Club.

The scores: Category 'A' (15-17 years): 1) Vihaan Jain — 300 (75, 72, 76, 77); 2) Nilofer Sivamoorthy — 302 (77, 74, 76, 75); 3) Adhiraaj Singh Gill — 305 (74, 79, 76, 76). **Category 'B' (13-14):** 1) Chaitanya Pandey — 308 (79, 75, 77, 77); 2) Jaibir Singh Kang — 311 (83, 77, 77, 74); 3) Saatvic Kumar Singh — 314 (81, 78, 80, 75).

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Family Welfare and Chemicals &
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Saturday, 23rd May 2026, 04:00 PM
Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi